

AUSTEN AT SEA

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The characters in this book are brought together by Jane Austen's work. What is your relationship to Austen's novels? Where do you see parallels between her characters and those in *Austen at Sea*?
2. How familiar are you with the characteristics of Victorian novels such as chapter titles and individual "books" within the book? Which of the four internal books was your favorite and why?
3. Admiral Sir Francis Austen and Louisa May Alcott are two real historical figures that appear in this book. How do they fit into the arc of the book? Why does fiction illuminate the past in a way that is different from non-fiction?
4. Charlotte and Henrietta have different aspirations and opinions. Which sister did you empathize with the most?
5. The Massachusetts Supreme Court reading group shows a great deal about how each justice thinks about the law. What do different characters learn from the books they read?
6. What is your favorite scene in the novel? What plot development did you enjoy the most?
7. What characters did you most want to spend more time with?
What do you imagine happens to characters, particularly the sisters, after the end of the book?
8. Charlotte and Nash are often at odds throughout the book.
What role does disagreement play in flirting? In a marriage?
9. The significance of legacy is a big theme throughout the novel, from a familial level to Austen's literary legacy. How do individuals in the book fight for legacy? What is the importance of legacy today?

