

Discussion questions for *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

Why do you think Ove has such fixed standards and routines? How had his difficult times in childhood and early adulthood influenced his life?

Why does Ove enjoy fixing things? Why does he only like things that are useful or have a purpose?

Do you know someone like Ove who has fixed standards and routines and has loyalty to a particular kind of car? (Maybe not Saab but Ford or Chevy?)

In the beginning of the book Ove talks to Sonja. Were you surprised to find out that Sonja was dead or had you already figured that out? Were you surprised to find out that Sonja had been disabled or had you already figured that out? How did you feel about that?

Discuss Ove's relationship with Sonja. What does his relationship with Sonja reveal about Ove?

Although this book is humorous, it does deal with the serious topic of suicide. Can you understand Ove's reasons for wanting to commit suicide?

Discuss the characters of Parvaneh, Jimmy, Anita, and Rune. How do they help Ove? How does Ove help them?

How does Ove's love of rules and routines contrast with his battles with bureaucracy?

Which character from the book is most like your own personality and worldview?

Were you satisfied with the ending? Did all the characters seem realistic? Did you enjoy the humor? Did the book make you cry?

If you could ask the author about this book, what would you ask? Have you or will you read any more of the author's books?