



Discussion Questions

1. “Mr Sinclair is inclined to see young ladies such as yourselves as... shall we say, *decorative*, first and foremost?” (page 313) What does Mr McDermott mean by this? Is Mr Sinclair’s attitude towards woman typical of the Edwardian era?
2. How does Sophie evolve as a character over the course of the novel?
3. DISCUSS: The female characters are more important to the plot of *The Clockwork Sparrow* than the male ones. Do you agree?
4. How would *The Clockwork Sparrow* be different if it was set in London in 2017?
5. What sort of genre is *The Clockwork Sparrow*? Does it remind you of anything else you have read?
6. Read the author’s note – can you find the imagined site of Sinclair’s on a map of London?
7. This is the first in a series of four books – what questions are you left with at the end of the novel?
8. Which character changes the most over the course of the novel?
9. Can you find examples of the vocabulary Katherine Woodfine uses that tells the reader this novel is set in Edwardian times?
10. DISCUSS: *The Clockwork Sparrow* is historical fiction.
11. Look at the coded message on page 135. Can you use a similar code to write a message for your friend to crack?
12. Read the blurb on the back of the book – once you’ve finished *The Clockwork Sparrow* have a go at writing your own blurb.