

The Austen Escape: Book Club Questions:

1. At the beginning of the story, Mary is clearly proficient in her work. She gets the job done, but is now stymied by an important project and in jeopardy. Why do you think it's come to this point?
2. Isabel and Mary met at age eight. Is it so unusual for the dynamic of a friendship to freeze within a moment of time? How does that influence how we see the world and our place in it?
3. Is *The Austen Escape* an unqualified tribute to Jane Austen and our appropriate of her stories? What would Mary say? Isabel? Gertrude?
4. The idea of perspective and vision – what one can and can't see – is offered time and again. It's given a tangible symbol in Golightly. What can/can't Mary see? What about Isabel?
5. *The Austen Escape* offers up the idea of “hiding places” or escapes? Within stories is one example – What other hiding places does it offer and how important are such escapes in life? Would you agree with Gertrude that they “can be dangerous?”
6. Is everyone in the story “hiding?” What does that say about the need to escape and recover?
7. Mary leaves Braithwaite House not knowing everything and without giving Nathan a chance. Why does she run?
8. Nathan forgives Mary. Does he see her clearly? Do you think he's always seen her clearly, as he states?
9. Was Mary right to stay at WATT? What did Craig see/not see in hiring Karen?