

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



### The Moomintroll Series

by Tove Jansson

#### Reading Level

Grades 4 to 7

“A lost treasure now rediscovered . . . A surrealist masterpiece.”—Neil Gaiman

“Jansson was a genius of a very subtle kind. These simple stories resonate with profound and complex emotions that are like nothing else in literature for children or adults: intensely Nordic, and completely universal.”—Philip Pullman

“Tove Jansson is undoubtedly one of the greatest children’s writers there has ever been. She has the extraordinary gift of writing books that are very clearly for children, but can also be enjoyed when the child, like me, is over sixty and can still find new pleasures with the insights that come from adulthood.”—Sir Terry Pratchett

“Clever, gentle, witty, and completely engrossing.”—Jeff Smith, author of *Bone*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Compare and contrast Moominpappa and Moominmamma as parents.
2. The Moomin books feature several different female characters. Pick one and discuss what makes her particularly strong and memorable.

## Moomins

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3. The Moomins have been compared to A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Can you see the similarities?
4. Whenever there is trouble, the Moomins and their friends always seem to flock to Moominmamma for help. What is it about Moominmamma's personality and character that makes her so comforting?
5. Gather some information about Finland. After reading the information, can you see any resemblance between the Finnish landscape, and Moominvalley and its surrounding areas?
6. At one point in the series, Moomintroll leaves his house and goes out to discover the world on his own. How is his adventure similar to growing up?
7. The Moomins are described as very tolerant characters. Reading through the books, point out the scenes where this characterization is shown.
8. Do any of the characters change throughout the books? Do any stay the same? Discuss.
9. If you could be any character from the Moomin books, which would you be and why?
10. Can you identify with any of the characters in the books? How?



### About the Author

Tove Jansson grew up in Helsinki, Finland. She is the author of nine novels and four original picture books about the Moomintrolls which have been translated into 34 languages. She was awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Children's Book Medal for her body of work. Jansson died in 2001 at the age of eighty-six.

[www.mackids.com](http://www.mackids.com)

Includes a biography of the author and additional information about her books as well as a Moomin guide

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