



1. Lady Lennox is very detached from her granddaughter. What are the reasons for this? Does her attitude change throughout the course of the book, and if so, why?
2. How does the legacy of the First World War make itself felt in the story?
3. Selina and Lawrence come from very different backgrounds and, on the surface, have little in common. What is it about Lawrence that Selina finds so attractive? And what draws Lawrence to Selina?
4. Why do you think Rupert asked Selina to marry him? Was he thinking primarily of her or himself? Why do you think she gave him the answer she did, and do you think it was the right choice? Explain.
5. Can you see any similarities between the world of the Bright Young Things in the 1920s and celebrity culture in the present day? Any differences? In what ways do you think this lifestyle may have affected Selina's worldview?
6. If Selina had chosen to stay with Lawrence, do you think they would have been able to overcome their class differences, or would their relationship ultimately have cracked under the weight of what Selina would have given up?
7. How did attitudes toward illness differ in the 1930s from the present day?
8. In the 1936 strand, Polly and Rupert both express their regret about the deception they have become caught up in. Did you understand Selina's reasons for beginning it? Do you think she should have done things differently?
9. How might the story have played out in the present day? Which aspects would be different, which the same?
10. What do you think happens in the years that follow the end?

Discussion Questions

