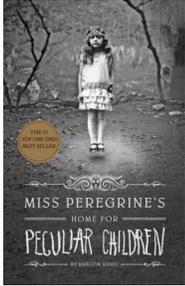


# Books by the Stack



## **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Bk. 1) by Ransom Riggs**

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs.

**Why you'll like it:** Fascinating. Well-plotted. Great Characters.

**About the Author:** Ransom Riggs grew up in Florida, writing stories and making videos in the backyard with his friends. He studied English at Kenyon College and film at the University of Southern California, and now lives in Los Angeles. He is also the author of a nonfiction book about Sherlock Holmes and a collection of found photographs.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What effect did the photographs have on how you experienced this novel? In fact, what *was your* reading experience of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*? How did it make you feel? Were you disturbed...or fascinated...or something else? Did the book hold your interest?
2. What's wrong with Jacob Portman? What's his problem?
3. What about Abe Portman, what kind of character is he? What kind of a world does he create in his stories for young Jacob? Why do the stories intrigue Jacob so much?
4. As he moves into adolescence, why does Jacob begin to doubt the veracity of his grandfather's stories? In what way does he think they may be connected to Abe's struggle under the Nazis?
5. What makes Jacob think his grandfather's death is more sinister than what the official version claims.
6. Talk about the house in Wales. When Jacob first lays eyes on it, he observes that it "was no refuge from monsters, but a monster itself." Would you say the house serves as a setting to the story...or is its role something else—a character, perhaps?
7. What are the atmospheric elements used to build suspense in the novel. Find some examples of how the author uses language to instill unease, fear, and tension.
8. Are you able to make sense of the "after," the time loop? Can you explain it? Do you enjoy the way Riggs

plays with time in his novel?

**9.** Were you surprised by the direction that the story took? Were you expecting it to go elsewhere? Were you able to suspend disbelief enough to enjoy the story's turn of events?

**10.** Talk, of course, about the peculiar children. Which of their oddities and personalities do you find most intriguing?

**11.** Some readers have complained about the inconsistency of the narrative voice, that it was perhaps too sophisticated for a young boy, even an adolescent? Do you agree, or disagree? Does the narrative voice change during the course of the novel?

**12.** In what way can this book be seen as a classic quest story—a young hero who undertakes a difficult journey and is transformed in the process? Do you see parallels with other fantasy works involving young people?

**13.** Does the end satisfy? Are loose ends tied up....or left hanging? This is the first book of a planned series. Will you read future installments? Where do you think Riggs will take his readers next?

*(Questions issued by LitLovers)*

