

Book Group Discussion Questions

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATKINS

by *Mindy Starns Clark*

1. Jo Tulip prides herself on being independent and self sufficient—though sometimes she takes those qualities too far. What problems can be created when a person is too independent? Too dependent?
2. Was Danny wrong to go to Europe when he did? Have you ever taken advantage of a career opportunity that required enormous sacrifice? Did your decision negatively impact others around you?
3. Jo's grandmother, Eleanor Bosworth, has always been a very remote and unloving woman. Why do you think Alexa is able to penetrate her hard heart in a way that no one else ever has?
4. Alexa is shocked to learn that the Finch twins are not intelligent or gifted. Why do you think she is so surprised? What impact does this realization have on her?
5. In this story, both Bradford and Luc are tempted to act in unethical ways for money. Do you think most people can be "bought" if the price goes high enough? What in each man's character made him accept or resist the offer?
6. How much responsibility do you think pharmaceutical companies should have in developing drugs for orphan diseases? Should they be forced to spend time and money researching medications that won't reap large profits in return?
7. Mr. Bashiri claims that the wealthy doctors who work with GMM are happier and more at peace in Africa than they are at home in Switzerland. How can affluence get in the way of one's relationship with God?
8. As you read this book, did you pick up any useful household hints? What did you think of the final resolution regarding Jo's column (and its new "sister" column)?
9. In what ways are Jo and Danny perfect for each other? If you could talk to Jo and Danny about their future together, what advice would you give them?
10. Did you read the entire Smart Chick Mystery series? If so, were you pleased with the romantic story line that carried through all three books? Did you think that Jo's emotional development was realistic? In what ways did Danny also grow and change through these stories?

