



Tracy Chevalier

Girl with a Pearl Earring

Reading Group Questions

1. How do Griet's occupation and social status affect her assisting her master in his work?
 2. Vermeer teaches Griet to 'see' using a camera obscura. What does she teach him?
 3. Van Leeuwenhoek tells Griet that she should make sure she remains herself. What does he mean by this, and does Griet 'remain herself' throughout the novel?
 4. Despite the trouble that her presence ultimately brings, and the difference in their social classes, Maria Thins seems exceptionally kind to Griet, even protecting her from Catharina. Why does Maria appear to have a particular affinity for Griet?
 5. Whilst van Ruijven carelessly chases after Griet and aggressively touches her against her will, Vermeer, despite being alone with her for hours, only touches her once, with her consent. Why might he be more reluctant to take advantage of her?
 6. When he paints her, why does Vermeer insist that Griet wear both earrings? What does it say about him?
 7. At the end of the novel, Griet has to make a choice from amongst several possibilities. Why does she choose what she does? Do you think she made the right choice?
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**Tracy will be in the UK for interview, comment and events around publication.
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