

Margot Book Club Questions

1. When Margot first meets Bryda, she introduces herself as Margie. What drives her to hide her full name and true identity? If she had confided in Bryda, how do you think the story would have changed?
2. Discuss the role memory plays in the book. What impact do memories have on the truth—both in Margie’s life and in your own?
3. Margie’s uncertainty about the past illustrates how one’s memory can change over time. How is Anne’s diary and Margie’s relationship to it affected by this truth?
4. Margie feels caged in by the past and does not embrace the new freedoms of being a woman in 1960s America. In contrast, Shelby relishes her growing freedom. How do these two opposing ideas of womanhood influence Margie’s path over the course of the novel?
5. Margie’s distinction between religion and ritual plays a big role in the novel. It is difficult for her to incorporate her religion into her American life. How does Margie’s acceptance of her faith relate to her acceptance of her past and present?
6. Do you believe Margie’s fantasy of a life with Pete in Levittown could ever happen? What do you think that life would be like for them? Would Margie ever embrace her old persona of “Margot,” or would she remain Margie Franklin?
7. What centers Joshua’s morality? We see him both defend criminals and go out of his way to take on cases his father denies because he feels a moral obligation. What drives that sense of obligation? How do we see his religion affecting his life and choices?
8. In many ways this is a novel about sisters. How do the feelings Margie has—both in the past and in the present—about Anne reflect the complicated nature of sister relationships? How does having and losing her sister impact her, in 1959 and beyond?
9. Does this fictionalized account affect your view of the Frank family and the real-life events surrounding the Holocaust?
10. Why do you think Margie is reluctant to reconnect with her father? What reasons does she have for avoiding contact? If she had contacted her father immediately upon learning he was alive, how do you think the story would have changed?
11. What is the importance of Joshua’s relationship with his father to the story? Shelby’s relationship with her sister Peggy? How do these relationships compare to Margie’s?
12. Margot Frank’s diary was never recovered. If it had been, do you think it would have changed our understanding of the Holocaust and life inside the Annex for the Franks?