

for reading groups

1 Who are you?

Which character are you most like? Which would you rather be? Which character would you really not want to be compared to?

2 At the table

Imagine all the members of your reading group are sitting around the dining table at Cockcrow Manor with Ange, Elizabeth, Spencer and all the others on that fateful night. How would each of you have reacted to events?

3 Situations

Choose a character from the novel and describe how they would behave in a particular situation. See page two for some ideas and suggestions.

4 Court Case

Imagine the case of Ange, Elizabeth and Spencer came to court... What's your verdict? All assertions must be supported with evidence from the novel. See page three for some legal advice.

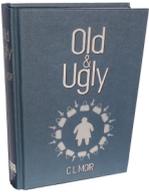
5 In her shoes

Pick the two chapters or events where you would most and/or least like to have been in Ange's shoes. Explain.

6 Ponder

Does a book have to be serious, not funny, in order to tackle serious issues?





3

Situations

Choose a character from the novel and describe how they would behave in a particular situation. Remember: You could print and cut out the cards below—and ask group members to pick one. You'll need to support your choices by referring to the novel.

If _____ went to the cinema...

- they would go and see...
- they would go with...
- they would buy... ..from the kiosk.
- they would... weep/cry/laugh/talk/fidget... ..during the film
- and after the film, they would want to...

If _____ went on holiday...

- they would go to...
- they would go with...
- they would travel by...
- they would make sure they packed...
- they would bring back with them some...

If _____ bought a new house...

- it would be...
- the area where they bought it would be...
- The first improvement they would make would be to...
- they would decorate it with...

If _____ bought a new car...

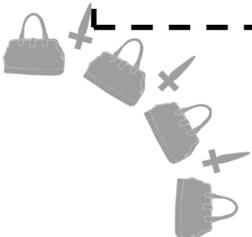
- it would be a...
- the colour of it would be...
- they would drive it to...
- they would travel at a speed of...
- they would be a very careful/reckless driver, for example...

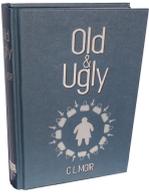
If _____ decided to get fitter...

- they would exercise by...
- they would lose even more weight by...
- when exercising, they would wear...
- the most essential part of their fitness regime would be...
- after exercising, they would...

If _____ went to the supermarket...

- they would shop at...
- they would put in their trolley...
- they would spend approximately...
- while queuing at the checkout, they would...
- when they got home, they would...





4

Court Case

Imagine the case of Ange, Elizabeth and Spencer came to court... What's your verdict? All assertions must be supported with evidence from the novel. Use the definitions below, from the Crown Prosecution Service website, to help you reach your decision..

Murder

[T]he crime of murder is committed, where a person:

- of sound mind and discretion (i.e. sane);
- unlawfully kills (i.e. not self-defence or other justified killing);
- any reasonable creature (human being);
- with intent to kill or cause grievous bodily harm (GBH)

Attempted Murder

In contrast to the offence of murder, attempted murder requires the existence of an intention to kill, not merely to cause grievous bodily harm

Diminished responsibility

There is a four-stage test, of which all four elements must be proved:

- Whether the defendant was suffering from an abnormality of mental functioning
- If so, whether it had arisen from a recognised medical condition
- If so, whether it had substantially impaired his ability either to understand the nature of his conduct or to form a rational judgment or to exercise self-control (or any combination)
- If so, whether it provided an explanation for his conduct

Loss of control

The loss of control defence has three components in Section 54(1)(a)(b) and (c) Coroners and Justice Act 2009:

- Loss of control,
- A qualifying trigger, and
- An objective test - A person of D's sex and age, with a normal degree of tolerance and self-restraint and in the circumstances of D, might have reacted in the same or in a similar way to D

Involuntary Manslaughter

Where an unlawful killing is done without an intention to kill or to cause grievous bodily harm, the suspect is to be charged with manslaughter not murder.

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/homicide-murder-and-manslaughter>