

***The Blue Castle*: Discussion Questions**

*The Blue Castle* has been called “a somewhat predictable novel.” Is this an accurate depiction of the book?

What was there in Valancy’s upbringing that could account for who she is and how she is portrayed at the beginning of novel?

Valancy has been referred to as a feminist. How would you support — or dispute — this statement?

How does Montgomery portray male characters? Which male character do you find most complexly drawn? Which female character do you find least appealing?

Fear and overcoming it are often said to be major themes of *The Blue Castle*. Would you agree with this? Besides Valancy, which other characters face and overcome fear?

In what different ways can the “blue castle” be viewed? Is it clichéd symbol of a unfulfilled desires or is it a transformative escapist fantasy? Is it something else?

Would you have argued against censoring *The Blue Castle* in 1920s Canada, or do you agree that unwed mothers should not have been presented to the reading public?

*The Blue Castle* is filled with pithy sayings, humorous understatements, and devastatingly apt comments on life. What are some of your favourite excerpts from the novel?

Do you think describing *The Blue Castle* a “feel-good fairy tale” is accurate?

Was *The Blue Castle* different from what you were expecting from a Lucy Maud Montgomery novel?

**General Questions**

Did you enjoy the novel? Would you recommend it to others? What was your favourite part? Your least favourite part?