

The Map Colorist
Book Club Discussion Guide

Here are some questions that you might want to use to get your discussion started. Spoiler alert! These questions assume that you have read the book. Enjoy your meeting!

1. What do you think of the moral compromises that Anneke made in order to achieve her goal?
2. What hurdles did Anneke face in achieving her dream? Which of these were particularly due to the fact that she was a woman?
3. What might Anneke's life have been like if she had not married Daniel?
4. What do you like the most about Anneke? What do you like the least?
5. Discuss Lysbeth's love for Isaac, both at the beginning of the story and at the end.
6. How does Lysbeth feel about the compromises she made to accommodate Isaac's career as an artist?
7. What was your attitude toward Isaac?
8. What role did Lucas play in the lives of each of the other family members?
9. How would you judge Willem de Groot's attitude and actions toward Anneke?
10. Did you feel any sympathy for Helena Kregier?
11. Anneke says that she has had a mostly happy life. Going by what else she says in the Epilogue, and what happens over the course of the novel, would you judge her life to have been happy?
12. Were there any historical facts that you found particularly interesting or surprising?
13. What do you see as the major themes of the book?
14. Why do you think the author included a prologue and an epilogue?