

## Discussion Questions for Alexander Hickory

1. What role does Clara play in Alex's life? What does she represent in terms of Alex's past, present and future?
2. What role does Miss Chamberlain play in Alex's life? How does this affect Alex's view of herself and her goals? How does it affect her relationship with Henry?
3. Does Alex's view of Miss Chamberlain change after they search the library? If so, how?
4. How does Alex's fight with Henry affect her perception of Miss Chamberlain?
5. What is Barrington's role in helping Alex find the treasure? What specifically does he do to help her find the clues? How else does he guide her? How do his interactions with Mr. Evans and Miss Chamberlain affect Alex?
6. Is Mrs. Finley an ally to Alex or does she thwart Alex's efforts or does she do both? What role does she play in the beginning of the book and does that change over time? If so, how? If not, how does Alex's perception of Mrs. Finley change over time? How does Alex use Mrs. Finley to her advantage?
7. Why are Alex's grandfather and father so important to her? How are they important to her past and her future? Why is she so interested in them if she never knew either one?
8. What about the house represents the quirky qualities of Alex's grandfather?
9. Why would the original Alexander Hickory choose to scatter the clues all over the house and grounds? Was this intentional for later generations who might work as servants or did he have another reason?
10. Why doesn't Barrington interfere more with Alex's search? Why doesn't he help her more?
11. How is the frog's rhyme usually interpreted by guests (like Mr. Carol)? How else could it be interpreted?
12. Why would Emma make a deal with Mr. Evans?
13. Why would the original Alexander Hickory choose to place three frogs in different places? Why the entrance, the library, and then the attic? What about each makes them unique and how are those attributes important to the story? How are they important to Alex?
14. Why does Alex decide to keep everyone at the house in the end? What about her grandfather made her decide to open the house to others?
15. Why does Alex choose to still sleep in the attic?
16. What does Henry do at the end of the book and what does it mean?