

**Reading Group Guide for  
*All Manner of Things*  
by Susie Finkbeiner**

*(Spoiler alert—these questions assume you’ve already read the book)*

1. For the family in the story, Chippewa Lake (or Old Chip) seemed the embodiment of childhood. Do you have a place like that from your past? What do you feel if/when you visit there now?
2. This story really keeps family at the heart. Talk a little bit about the family dynamic you see in the book. What kinds of family dynamics do you see in your own life and experiences?
3. Do you have any experience with Dutch people? What kinds of stereotypes do you hear about them? What about your own heritage?
4. Many of the characters in the story deal with conflict and resolution. Who do you think handles things the best? Who handles things the worst?
5. Mike encourages Annie in chapter 4 not to live her life based on what “might happen” and to keep her eyes open. How does this advice play into Annie’s story and inform her decisions in the rest of the story?
6. The Vietnam War is an element of the events in this story. How does it affect the characters individually and how do they respond? How do you think the overall mood of the town in the story is affected by it?
7. Military service is also an element that affects the characters on a very personal level. How do you think things would have been different if Mike had not voluntarily signed up for the Army? How would his friends and family have responded differently if he had instead been drafted?
8. Frank’s leaving and absence changes his family in significant ways. Do you think his children would have made different choices if he had stayed? How would things have been different for the Jacobson family overall? Have you ever had a friend or family member affected by PTSD?
9. How does Frank’s reappearance affect the lives of his wife and kids? How does it ultimately affect Frank’s life?
10. This story offers a message of hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. How do you see this playing out in the lives of the members of the Jacobson family?