

Discussion Questions for *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck

(Some questions taken or adapted from <http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-year.html>.)

1. Did you like the book? If yes, why? If no, why not?
2. Did you find the characters believable? Which of the characters did you like the most? Which did you dislike?
3. Did you find the dialog in the story realistic?
4. What did you think of the plot line development? How credible did the author make the plot? Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable?
5. Did the author convey the era well? Did it feel like the author did his homework?
6. When Mary Alice first arrives by train and describes Grandma Dowdel she says, "She drew nearer till she blotted out the day." In what ways is Grandma Dowdel larger than life?
7. How is Mary Alice's life in the country different from what you imagine her life in the city was like?
8. Grandma Dowdel is often gruff. How does she show her love through actions instead of words?
9. Why do you think Grandma takes Mary Alice to meet the Abernathys?
10. How does Mary Alice change over the course of the year?
11. Is Mrs. Wilcox Grandma's best friend? Why or why not?
12. How does Grandma feel about Bootsie when the cat and Mary Alice first arrives? How do her feelings change?
13. Why won't Grandma let Mary Alice stay at the end of the year?
14. Were you surprised to see that Mary Alice married Royce at the end of the book?
15. What are some of the things about Grandma that Mary Alice says she'll carry with her through life?
16. Were there any passages or scenes that you remember well or particularly liked?
17. Has anyone had an experiences that relate to places or experiences in the book?
18. Any comments about the way the book ended?
19. Are there any questions you would like to ask?