

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle By Avi

Book Club Discussion Questions

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1. Describe your initial reaction to the book, as you were reading it and when you finished it.
2. The book starts out with an important warning. She says:
“But before I begin relating what happened, you must know something about me as I was in the year 1832 -- when these events transpired. At the time my name was Charlotte Doyle. And though I have kept the name, I am not -- for reasons you will soon discover -- the *same* Charlotte Doyle.”
Why does she say that she is not the same person who started the voyage?
3. How did the crew influence Charlotte in her transformation? What was the role of Zachariah specifically?
4. What did the captain call her when she joined the crew? What influence did her father have in the way the captain treated her? Why was the captain so threatened by Charlotte?
5. Why was the crew wary of trusting Charlotte? What changed their minds?
6. What were the roles of Captain Jaggery and Charlotte’s father in her transformation? How were they alike? How were they different? What were their roles in her change?
7. At her trial, the captain uses the term “unnatural” to describe her activities. Why did he use this term?
8. What was the turning point for Charlotte? Where was her point of no return?
9. Charlotte returns to her family, but she cannot go back. The journey somewhere and return is a common literary device. Why can’t Charlotte go back? Could her family have made her transition different? Have you ever tried going back in your own life? What happened?
10. What events in your life have shaped and changed you the way her voyage changed her?
11. What would happen if there were to be a sequel?