

The Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul
Discussion Questions

1. Dirk is not your everyday detective. How would you describe his physical appearance, his lifestyle, and his work habits? What situation does he find himself in as the story opens?
2. The business deal gone wrong that results in Anstey's gruesome death is one of the most mysterious elements of the plot. What do we know about it at the outset? How do various clues unfold along the way? How does it all sort out in the end?
3. Why does Kate go to Woodshead in the first place? When she arrives, she finds a strange assortment of patients and a strange establishment. Describe this.
4. What do you make of the refrigerator? How does it affect Dirk's life? What becomes of it?
5. Thor and his father Odin do not get along. Why? How has Thor tried to get his father's attention, and how had Odin responded?
6. How are the Norse gods portrayed in this story? How does Adams explain their present predicament? The gods seem to be *in this world*, but not *of this world*. What are some examples of this?
7. The Draycotts, the couple who live next door to Geoffrey Anstey, turn out to be important to the plot. How do they fit in?
8. The Coca-Cola machine and the eagle keep making appearances in the story. What's up with them?
9. There are many instances of wacky humor in this book. Which ones did you like the most?
10. Dirk Gently says that being a holistic detective involves finding the interconnectness of things. This story is full of those interconnections. What are some?

Rank the four *Pagers* books we read this year in your order of preference (1st through 4th). If you didn't read them all, rank those you did.

<i>The Long Walk</i>	_____	<i>Gates of Fire</i>	_____
<i>The Jump</i>	_____	<i>Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul</i>	_____