



## Discussion Questions for *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett

Strange things are starting to happen to Petra and Calder. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal where no one is spared from suspicion! Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI?

1. What would you do if you received one of the mysterious letters?
2. How is Ms. Hussey different from most teachers?
3. Petra likes to imagine what it would be like to physically go into a painting. What piece of art would you like to enter? Why?
4. Petra wonders what art really is. How do you think of art? What makes it special?
5. Calder is always finding patterns in things he sees, hears, and thinks. What patterns do you notice in your daily life?
6. Discuss some of the coincidences that arise in the book. Do you think a coincidence is just a coincidence? Why or why not?
7. Who is responsible for stealing the painting, *A Lady Writing*? What is the purpose of the three letters?
8. What is Mrs. Sharpe's secret?
9. The famous artist Pablo Picasso said, "Art is a lie that tells the truth." What do you think that means?
10. In *Chasing Vermeer*, the line between what is real and what is fake is blurry. What do you think is real in the book? What do you think is fake?