

Mabel the Lovelorn Dwarf

Questions for Discussion

Mabel battles numerous social pressures in her youth. Identify the various pressures and their sources.

Being a champion axe-thrower has its advantages, but in Mabel's case, what disadvantages did she encounter?

Mabel the Lovelorn Dwarf is a coming-of-age story. What issues does Mabel face and overcome on her road to maturity?

Does the reader see Mabel as a mature dwarf by the end of the novel? What evidence, if any, is there to suggest that she has matured to a significant extent?

Mabel spends much of her time in her fantasy world. What advantages and disadvantages does her continuing fantasy offer?

For most of the book Mam is a mystery to the reader and to Mabel. What events and attitudes lie at the heart of this mystery?

What reasoning does Da offer to justify his treatment of Mam? Do you think he was justified?

The author hopes that readers will be nudged to realize that this novel can teach us something about how to live our lives. What are some lessons for life that you see in this story?

Emma and Mabel have been friends since early childhood. How would you describe their friendship?

In order for Mabel and her friends to enjoy movies, and for Aramis to be a movie star the author had to invent a movie camera and projector. Describe this "technology." Do you think of it as "stone-age" or "space-age?"