“Girl with Pencil, Drawing” Book Discussion Questions

1.) Annie seems nervous about starting her art lessons, and getting the criticism of her instructor, even though she has won a contest. Why do you think she is so unsure of herself?
2.) Annie makes an immediate connection with Francesca. What do you think this says about Annie?
3.) What did you think was going on between John DiCrinstiani and Francesca when they were arguing in his office?
4.) What was the best evidence to connect Francesca to DiCristiani’s murder?
5.) What do you think Mark DiCristiani’s behavior suggests about him?
6.) If you read The Madonna Ghost, contrast Ty’s behavior towards Annie to Mark DiCristiani’s attitude when he visited the gallery.
7.) If you were Annie, would you have snooped in Frau Helriegel’s desk when they visited her? Why or why not?
8.) The stories of the Nazi’s confiscation of art from countries they invaded, and occupied are true. How did Frau Helriegel’s story make you feel about her, and what she had done, involving herself in the secret art society?
9.) Put yourself in Francesca’s place. How would you have reacted to finding your art work as part of a secret collection? Would you have reacted differently from Francesca?
10.) Review the science used to make sure an art piece is authentic. Was Horst Blau convincing. Do you think he was convincing as a legitimate art collector?
11.) Why were the art forgery and theft ring (the bad guys) willing to commit murder to protect their business and are collections?
12.) Who killed John DiCristiani?
13.) Do you think Frau H was behind the murder? Give a reason.
14.) When reading the book, before the scene on the bridge, did you get the bike club thing?
15.) Funny Question: Do you think Aunt J should have locked the girls up after their first encounter with danger?
16.) Were Annie and Francesca good friends to each other? Give some examples.
17.) What do you think are the best and worst qualities of these characters?

Annie, Francesca, Aunt Jill, Horst Blau, Frau Helriegel, Lt. Red, Mark DiCristiani