

Skaneateles Library
Books by the Stack
Discussion Questions

A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles

1. How would you describe Count Rostov? Do you find him an appealing character?
2. In what way does Count Rostov's confinement transform him? How do you see him changing during the course of the novel? What incidents have the most profound effect on him? Consider the incident with the beehive and the honey.
3. The Metropol serves literally and symbolically as a window on the world. The hotel is a real place and is still in operation today. What did you think of the hotel as the setting for this story?
4. Consider the character Nina, who even Towles considers the Eloise of the Metropol. Nina helps the Count unlock the hotel (literally and symbolically), revealing a much richer place than the it first seemed. What do we, along with the Count, discover?
5. Why might Casablanca be the Count's favorite film? What does it suggest about his situation?
6. Think about the other characters, aside from Nina: the handyman, the actress, Mishka, and Osip Glebnikov. What roles do they play in the novel?
7. The Count was imprisoned for writing the poem "Where is it Now," which questioned the purpose of the new Soviet Union. How does modern Russian compare to the Soviet Union we see in Towles novel?
8. Towles writing style is considered lyrical and descriptive, do you have any favorite quotes or passages that really stood out to you while reading?
9. Would you consider reading Amor Towles other book *Rules of Civility* after reading *A Gentleman in Moscow*?
10. Would you recommend others read this book?

