

## Tove Jansson, ‘The Morning Swim’ (from *The Summer Book*)

### Discussion Points

1. Childhood and old age, similarities and differences.
2. The child's awareness of the frailties of her grandma.
3. Her grandma's understanding of the child's fears.
4. The old and the young both rebel against the rules of the man (unseen) in the middle.
5. The child's easy acceptance of old age and death.
6. How does Jansson use visual perspectives in conveying the acute observational skills of the grandmother? For example, sometimes we see the island very close up and sometimes as very remote.
7. Does their love of nature help them to create a sense of joy as well as to understand the precarity of nature and of old age?
8. How does Jansson disrupt and challenge stereotypes of age and youth?
9. How important is intergenerational solidarity in the book?
10. How important is imagination and play in the book for countering the sorrows of youth and age?