

**Joseph Luzzi • *The Tolstoy Seminar: Anna Karenina* • Class 3**  
**Virtual Book Club • April 20th, 2022 • Study Guide\* • © Joseph Luzzi**

*Please note: the below are only intended to help you “get inside” Tolstoy’s extremely complex, intricate work—please do not feel compelled to answer them in full, unless you wish to, and if there are questions or elements that you don’t understand, no worries, we will explain all when we meet for our upcoming seminar!*

1. Of course, Parts 6–8 “conclude” *Anna Karenina*; but what are the ways in which these final sections also “open up” the narrative, and perhaps even leave elements unresolved or inconclusive?
2. In Part 6, the newlyweds Levin and Kitty receive the Scherbatskys and other visitors, include the young gallant Veslovsky, who openly flirts with the pregnant Kitty. Overcome with jealousy, Levin orders Veslovsky to depart, causing much embarrassment for all. What do Levin’s actions in this case reveal about his character? How is his extreme reaction consistent with his ongoing quest for existential and even spiritual meaning?
3. Throughout the latter parts of the novel, we witness Anna’s increasing jealousy toward Vronsky and the women with whom she imagines he could become involved. Why do you think that Anna’s jealousy is becoming so overwhelming? Is it justified? And are there perhaps hidden sources for it that may not be readily apparent?
4. In this latter stage of the book, Karenin’s actions are increasingly governed by a deeply religious and mystically inclined noblewoman, Lidia Ivanova. Why do you think that Tolstoy develops the character of Levin in this manner? How does this version of Karenin compare to the earlier one of him from the beginning of the novel?
5. In Part 7, an utterly dejected Anna has come to see her situation as hopeless. Why do you believe that she sees no way out of her predicament? What does Anna’s plight reveal or suggest, more broadly, about the plight of women in her time and milieu?
6. In Part 8, a broken Vronsky joins a group of Russians to go abroad to fight in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–78. What does his emotional condition reveal about his character, and the arc of his development, from the beginning of the book to its conclusion?
7. Much of Part 8 is taken up with Levin’s relation to the principles of Christianity and his faith. Where does the book’s end leave us on that count?
8. Now that you have completed the book, what do you believe to be the single most significant moment or event in *Anna Karenina*, and why?
9. What is a keyword from *Anna Karenina*, and why do you believe it to be so significant?
10. Why, after some hundred and forty years since its publication, does *Anna Karenina* remain so relevant today?

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