**Discussion Questions**
taken from HERALD COURT THEATRE KIDSArts Outreach - Study Guide - Heidi by Johanna Spyri•

1. Even though Heidi does not know her grandfather, Aunt Detie leaves her with him in a remote mountain cabin. Why does Aunt Detie do this? Was she acting in Heidi’s best interests? Was she acting responsibly when she later takes Heidi to Frankfurt?

2. What was Heidi’s grandfather like before she arrived? What was the source of his bitterness? How did he treat other people? How does Heidi help him to change?

3. “ It is good to be on the mountains, “ the kind doctor says, “body and soul get well there.” Which characters are healed when they come to the mountain? How are they healed? What are the hazards of living in towns or cities with no access to trees and ﬂowers and parks? What are the beneﬁts of living in the mountains?

4. Fraulein Rottenmeier is appalled when Heidi arrives in Frankfurt. Why? How does the Fraulein expect Heidi to behave? Why is it hard for Heidi to live in Frankfurt?

5. Heidi has great faith in Providence. What is Providence? How does Heidi express her belief in Providence? How does she act upon it? How does her faith aﬀect others?

6. What value is placed on literacy in this story? Why is it diﬃcult at ﬁrst for Heidi to learn how to read? How does Clara’s Auntie help her? What does Heidi read once she learn how? Why?

7. Discuss Peter’s friendship with Heidi. How are the two alike? How are they diﬀerent? Why does he behave so horribly when Clara visits?

8. Could Heidi be set in modern-day Switzerland? Back when the book ﬁrst appeared in 1880, travel and communication took much longer than it does now. With today’s technology, is it still possible to live a life as isolated as Heidi’s grandfather?

9. Heidi has a gift for helping people in need, but what does she desire for herself? How does she look after her own needs?