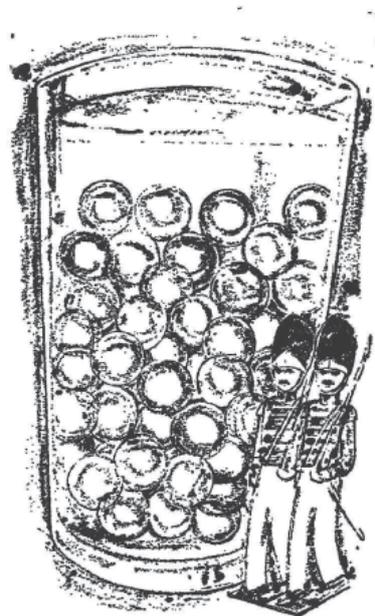


READING GUIDE FOR  
*Charlotte Sometimes*  
by PENELOPE FARMER

## Who is Penelope Farmer?

Penelope Farmer was born in 1939 in Kent. She was a twin, although doctors weren't aware of her existence until she started to appear, twenty-five minutes after her sister was born. Many of Penelope's novels deal with the issue of identity and some readers suggest that this is because she is a twin. In *Charlotte Sometimes* the strange things that happen to Charlotte force her to question her own identity and ponder the possibility that it could be lost.

Penelope Farmer has written many books for both adults and children in the course of her long career as a writer. *Charlotte Sometimes* is actually the third book in a trilogy featuring the characters of Charlotte and Emma Makepeace. Penelope currently lives on the Spanish island of Lanzarote, one of the Canary Islands, and writes a blog under the name Granny P.



## Some things to think about...

*Charlotte Sometimes* is a book that makes us consider a lot of things: how we would cope with life during a global war, how we might react if something supernatural happened to us, and how people behave in times of crisis. Here are a few questions to help you to think more deeply about the book. If you have a friend who has also read *Charlotte Sometimes*, why not discuss these questions with them. You might be surprised at how much their views differ from your own.

Do you think Charlotte is a heroine in this story? Do you think the way she responds to finding herself in 1918 is 'right'?

Do you identify more with the character of Charlotte or Emily, and why?

Why do you think Mr Chisel Brown is so angry about the war coming to an end? Do you sympathise with his feelings?

Why do you think Elsie Brand is so badly bullied and excluded? What do you think is going on inside her head?

Do you think the grown-up Emily makes the right decision in resisting the temptation to visit the young Clare?

What part of the book did you find most moving or shocking, and why?



