

## Discussion Questions for *A Body at Rest* by Susan Petrone

1. The author takes her title from Newton's First Law of Motion: "**The first law** states that an object moving in a straight line will continue to move in a straight line unless acted on by an outside force. This law also states that an object at rest will stay at rest unless a force acts on it." " (Dine, Michael. "Motion." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2009. Web. 23 Sept. 2009.) Martha says on page 53 that she had been in a state of inertia for 27 years. What forces sparked the transformation of Martha and of Nina? What forces stopped them?
2. What is it about Emma Woodhouse that Martha desires? (p. 41) Why do you think Nina admires Don Quixote?
3. How did you view the tattoo parlor and the fact that it was not listed in the phone book? Do you think the tattoos sparked the change or were a symbol of the transformation the friends were beginning?
3. Why do you think the author chose to have one character stay a woman but have the character known for her prowess with men become a man herself, and a chivalrous knight, at that?
4. In the context of the story, did you find Nina and Martha's transformation believable?
5. Did you find the character of Martha's mother believable? Do you think a mother loves a child not matter who or what she becomes?
6. In Don Quixote, the knight believes only what he chooses to believe. Do you think that is what happened to Martha and Nina? Do you think we really get what we wish for?
7. Have you ever wanted to start over as someone completely different? If you could become a fictional character, or another person, who would it be?
8. What choice do you think Martha makes at the end of the book?