

THE DARKHOUSE

Book Discussion Guide

1. Discuss the different reasons Gemma's journey is necessary. Consider the possible allegorical aspects of her story: the central mystery vs. a journey towards self-discovery.
2. When did you realize something was strange about Aidie, and why?
3. The relationship between Gemma and Aidie is very important throughout the story. Why do you think that is? Is Aidie an imaginary friend, a ghost, a memory, or Gemma's subconscious?
4. Do you think the islanders missed opportunities to see the truth about Jonah and Gemma's life? If so, why do you think that is?
5. Jonah is preoccupied with an experiment that involves conditioning solitary creatures to survive in pairs so they become reliant on each other. Why do you think this is the evolutionary development he most wants to create?
6. Marlie's arrival becomes the catalyst for Gemma to discover her real history. What do you think brought Marlie to the island in the first place? Why do you think the author thought it was important to introduce this character? What emotions and actions does Marlie trigger within Gemma? In Jonah?
7. In order to escape Jonah and find her family, Gemma has to leave the island. What impact do you think the 'real world' would have on a teen girl who has been so isolated from modern experiences?
8. Why do you think Gemma can't bring herself to be reunited with the family she so badly wants to know?
9. What do you think will happen after the end of the story? With Gemma? With Marlie? With the island and the islanders?