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# The Way Home – Reading Guide

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When you've lost touch with who you are, how do you find...  
I wrote *The Way Home* as a way of exploring the different ways in which we come of age, with becoming a parent the final coming of age that Tom and Millie struggle with. I hope the following questions help you in your reading groups to find interesting angles and topics of discussion and in so doing will increase your enjoyment of the book.

**What milestones do Tom and Millie face as they progress through their lives and in what ways do these represent a 'coming of age'?**

**The novel explores families and parenthood. How do Millie and Tom's experiences of family affect them as they create a family of their own?**

**Grief is a strong theme for Millie in particular. How does grief play a part in how she develops into a woman, a wife and then a mother?**

**Tom describes himself as a "halfing". What does he mean by that and how does it impact his perspective on family?**

**While post-natal depression is believed to affect at least one in five women less is understood about the impact on the partner. How does Millie's post-natal depression impact on Tom and his behaviour?**

**In what ways are the cities London and San Francisco characters in the book? How does the setting shape the scenes?**

**Suicide is often seen as a selfish act. Thinking about Millie and her father, is that the case? What was their intention? How did it impact the people they loved?**

**"I love her. It's as simple and as complicated as that." What does Millie mean by that? In what ways is love for our children simple or complicated?**

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