

1. How have Matt and Im been affected by the death of their mother? What does a parent's passing mean in the lives of their children?
2. What does Lottie's place in High House say about family? Are any of your distant relatives a large part of your close family? Is family something you choose, something you are born into, or a mixture of the two?
3. When Matt was young he wrote stories to deal with his emotions. What do you turn to in times of stress? Does writing or reading help you to deal with problems in your life or to escape?
4. The High House and the Summer House are more than just buildings – they hold great meaning for their inhabitants. What makes a house more than simply a place?
5. Lottie "couldn't remember a time when she hadn't been aware of the pressing in of other worlds." Do you believe that some people have "gifts," like Lottie's?
6. Lottie never told Tom how much she loved him. Have you ever felt strongly for someone without letting them know?
7. Nick and Alice's marriage is tested by money issues. How important is a couple's financial stability to their relationship?
8. Imogen and Nick find themselves leaning on each other during a rough patch in their separate marriages. Is it dangerous to rely on an old love in times like these?
9. Matt believes that once he figures out the mystery of the photographs he'll be able to get back to writing. Have you ever been distracted from your normal life by memories of your past?
10. Matt and Im realize they never truly understood their mother's pain. What does this tell us about the importance of trying to reach across generation gaps?

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## *Discussion Questions*



St. Martin's  
Griffin