



1. The scenes and observations of the parents from up Here are a unique way for the writer and reader to share reflections on the unfolding lives of the Stenen siblings. What stood out most for you from the scenes from Here? How does this possibility of an afterlife fit with your beliefs about what lies beyond?
2. How likely is it that the siblings feel some of the love and concern that their parents are showing for them from the great beyond?
3. The siblings are drawn very sympathetically; their shared experience of loss shapes them each in different ways. How does that loss affect each of them?
4. Which of the three main characters—Alice, Dinah, and Griffin—do you relate to most?
5. The parents say that although the children have changed, they are still the same, “earnestly making their way in a fractured life.” Discuss how resilience and love bind them.
6. Each of the Stenens deals with the fact that bad things can happen at any time in a unique way. Alice braces herself for what might come next and escapes into acting to let herself be free. Dinah discovers a strong religious faith in Greece, and her belief in fate and purpose makes her put family first, yet she longs for love and romance. Griffin knows that families are fragile and he loves his partner, Theo, deeply but feels parenthood is for other people—it’s tempting fate. What drives each of them to take the risks that they do to create families of their own as adults?
7. How do each of the siblings define family? How do the living arrangements that evolve over the course of the

*A
Reading
Group
Guide*

story reflect their desires and fears about family? How do you define family?

8. Dinah acts out of character by having an impetuous affair on the cruise. Why do you think she threw caution to the wind?
9. As Dinah screams at the falls, filled with disappointment and doubt after finding that Eduardo is to be married, she waits for a sign from God. Her mother comments, "Now she'll have to shake up her life and change things." How do you think Dinah handles the consequences of her actions? What do you think of how heavily she leans on her family to help her through?
10. Why did Griffin adopt Holly, the dog, when Theo was so clearly against it? Why couldn't Griffin talk to Theo about his fears about parenthood and family? How unreasonable was it to expect Theo to understand without really being told?
11. Why was Griffin drawn to Ray? What need did Ray fulfill for him? Why do you think Griffin was willing to give up his relationship with Theo for someone he barely knew?
12. Alice becomes entranced by Adam, the three-year-old son of her neighbor and lover Ian. She thinks perhaps her fantasy of belonging in their lives could be real, perhaps it's where she's meant to be. What is Alice looking for in Ian and Adam? How do her doubts sabotage her desires, especially after she loses Adam for a few minutes in the park one day?
13. Alice notes, "When she was around Neil, she kept reaching for her old self." What do you make of Alice being drawn to being wanted by Neil at the same time



she wishes that Ian would ask to make their relationship permanent? What do you think about her parents' reflection that "Alice may love them all (and she does) but still do the wrong thing. And not even intentionally. Just because she's restless, and, yes, a little blue"?

14. What do you think about Dinah and Theo and Eva pretending to be the happy family? And Griffin sneaking around watching them, stalking the old homestead?
15. After Holly is gone and Griffin moves back in, Dinah feels like she doesn't fit in anymore, and she is surprised that Theo can so easily forgive Griffin. What do you think of the shift back for Theo and Griffin?
16. What do you think the title of the book means? Where do you imagine the three main characters' lives going from here?

*A
Reading
Group
Guide*

*For more reading group suggestions, visit
www.readinggroupgold.com.*



St. Martin's
Griffin