

# TRAVELLING IN THE DARK

BY EMMA TIMPANY

- What does the title of the book 'Travelling in the Dark' convey to you? How does it link to the story?
- The novella is composed of two different storylines. Why do you think the author chose this format? How does the character's past influence her present life?
- The novella explores the bond between mothers and children through two generations. Discuss these relationships; can you find any similarities or differences?
- The novella explores different themes: family, friendship, loss, love. Which one do you think is the central theme/driving force and why?
- In chapter 19, Sarah tells his son the story of a fantail and a boy who tried to cheat death. Why do you think the author chose to use this story?
- The novella is set in New Zealand and it contains many descriptions of the wilderness. Find some examples; how do these mirror Sarah's state of mind or her feelings?
- 'Sometimes it's just a matter of waiting; waiting for history and memory to align, like stars over a mountain, and lead you home' (pp. 171-2). How do you interpret this sentence Sarah said?
- The name of the child is not revealed until the very end of the book (chapter 41). Why do you think that is? What effect does it have on you as a reader?
- The narrative storyline can be seen as circular. Would you agree? Why?