

TRAVELLING IN THE DARK

BY EMMA TIMPANY

QUESTIONS

- The book powerfully combines a physical and an emotional journey for the main character, Sarah. How do you think this has been achieved and what other books have you read which use a similar motif?

- Discuss how the narrative travels through two parallel time frames, each with its own story arc. What are the turning points of the two different stories and how has the author linked them?

- There are also stories within the story, of folk tales. Why do you think the author has included them and what impact do you think it has on the pace of the book?

- How has the author created a sense of place?

- Discuss the relationship between Sarah and her child. Did you notice the withholding of his name when you read the book and do you think this withholding was an effective technique to create tension?

- Take a close look at the style of the prose. In what way does it differ from your own writing style?

- Do you think there is an antagonist in this book? What is his/her purpose?

- Do you think there is a message, moral or otherwise, within the story?

- Discuss the ending of the book. Would you have ended it the same way or in a different way?

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WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write a passage of 1,000 words which travels both through a physical space and an emotional journey.

OR

B) Take a chapter of your own writing and re-write it to enhance the sense of place.

NOTES
