

# VOTING DAY

by Clare O'Dea

- Before reading this book, were you aware of the history surrounding women's voting rights in Switzerland? Did the story change your perspective on this aspect of history?
- The story centres around four women: Vreni, Margrit, Esther and Beatrice. Which one did you find yourself relating to the most?
- Would you describe *Voting Day* as a feminist book? Why or why not?
- How did you interpret Vreni and Margrit's relationship? What are the contrasts and similarities between their lives?
- Esther belongs to a minority group, the Yewish people, who have historically been marginalised. How does this affect her life, and how does this form of prejudice intersect with the sexism she experiences?
- Beatrice is the most politically active of the four women – does this mean she cares more about women's rights than the others? How does the result of the vote affect her views and commitment to campaigning?
- How are the male characters portrayed, particularly in terms of their relationships to the female characters?
- How is marriage presented in the book, and how do the main characters' views on marriage differ?
- Ruedi is not mentioned often in the book, but is central to the story's conclusion. What does he mean to each of the four main characters?
- The story is set in 1959. How would the narrative differ if it were set in the present day? What progress has been made, and what has not changed so much for women?