

THE HOUSE on the EDGE

DISCUSSION NOTES

The House on the Edge is full of dramatic moments. What was your favourite scene and what made it so tense?

Weather can add a lot of atmosphere to a scene. For example, “*Vicious Wind starts circling. It whips brown strands out of my ponytail using them to thrash my eyes. I never knew I could hate the wind so much. Hissing and howling like invading warriors.*” (p.16) What kind of personality do you think the wind has in this passage? How do you think this description of the weather is used to show how Faith is feeling?

Faith’s effort to save her home, The Lookout, is central to *The House on the Edge*. What is threatening her home? Why does Faith want to save it at all costs?

“*Houses have voices*” (p.3) What do you think this might mean? Do you think Faith’s house has a story to tell?

Faith feels very responsible for her family, but says, “*I make another wish, probably for the zillionth time: that I wasn’t the oldest.*” (p. 18) Why do you think Faith doesn’t want to be the older sibling? Do you have younger siblings and if so, how do you feel about being older?

When Noah runs away, he leaves a note telling Faith, “*You are not my MUM u know!*” (p.53) Why does Noah say this? What does it tell you about their relationship?

Towards the end of the book, Sam explains why he’s been hiding in the cellar, “*I just want a home is all.*” (p.182) What do you think he means by that? What does the word ‘home’ mean to you?

Faith struggles to connect with her friends Asha and Sian after her dad’s disappearance. Why do you think she avoids her friends? What does Faith mean when she says there is a “*Dad-sized chasm*” (p.164) between her and Asha?



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“Old Mum used to write scribbled notes with our lunches, with smiley faces and messages like ‘you’re my favourite daughter’ and ‘missing you already’” (p.60) What does this tell you about Faith’s mum now and why do you think she has changed?

Can you think of characters who were brave in the book? Do you think there are different kinds of bravery?

When Faith stays at Mrs Hollowbread’s house, it isn’t as she expects – it’s cosy and warm. It makes Faith wonder if she ever had her right in the first place. What do you learn about Mrs Hollowbread from her home? Why does Faith change her mind about Mrs Hollowbread?

Faith uncovers a family secret about her ancestor Tom Walker and the death of his daughter Tess Walker – discuss what you found out about their lives and their story. Can you see any similarities between Tess Walker and Faith?

At the end of the book, Sam and Mr Kowalski work on preserving the history of The Lookout. Why do you think remembering the past so important?

“Other People. I suppose they’re not so bad after all. It’s like the fossil hunters on the beach. If you look hard amongst the rocks and chip away, you might find treasure.” (p.184) What does Faith learn about other people during the book?

At the end of the book, Faith says, *“You can never really know when things might fall, but as long as there are others to keep you back from the edge, you’ll be all right.” (p.241) What do you think she means by that? How did you feel at the end of the book?*

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