

**Reading Group Questions: Dominic Brownlow's *The Naseby Horses***

The novel deals with Simon's love for his sister Charlotte and his desire to find her. Do you think his love for her is normal or obsessive? How do you think Charlotte would explain their relationship?

Simon's connection with Uncle Pete is almost paternal and he clearly has a great fondness and respect for his grandfather. Does Simon seek paternal and maternal relationships with others because they are lacking at home, or has he chosen to ignore his parents in favour of others?

Simon's condition is almost debilitating, both in the frequency of his seizures and the nature of his eidetic memory; yet within himself he is content, self-sufficient and measured. Prior to the start of the story, do you believe he was happy?

Nial from Simon's support group tells us our brains are 'still in the Jurassic period' and Simon, himself, suggests there is 'a knowledge we are not yet to be trusted with.' He also declares himself an atheist. Do you believe this to be true? Or is Simon more spiritual than he cares to admit?

How did you feel about how the idea of religion is generally handled in the novel? Could it be read as a hymn to atheism?

What are the Naseby Horses and what, to you, do they represent?

Simon has an extremely uneasy relationship with his mother. How did you feel about her? Is your sympathy for her during this terrible time diminished due to her treatment of Simon?

The novel is full of birds and bird imagery. What do you think birds represent in the novel? The injured swan in particular plays a pivotal role; in many ways Charlotte and the swan are one and the same. Do you agree?

*The Naseby Horses* is not easy to categorise. Did you read it as literary fiction? Young adult fiction? Adventure? Mystery? A love story, even? None of these?