

## ***The Smallest Thing***

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*This reading group guide for The Smallest Thing includes suggested discussion questions intended to help you find new and interesting topics for your group.*

1. At the start of the story, Em has a strained relationship with her dad. What do you think is the cause of this and how does it change as the story unfolds?
2. Em inadvertently uncovers the secret of her mother's infidelity. What do you think the relationship was like between Em's parents?
3. Em feels stifled in her small village, and can't wait to get away. Can you relate to feeling trapped in some way and wishing there was a way out?
4. The quarantine imposes a restriction on Em's movements. Were you surprised by any of the other restrictions imposed on her because of the virus?
5. As the story unfolds, Em experiences the kindness and generosity of the neighbors she hadn't previously appreciated. Have you ever been in a situation where you've seen someone's true colors and been pleasantly surprised? Do tragedy and hardship bring out the best or the worst in people?
6. Aiden continues to risk his life to help others. What do you think drives him to do that?
7. Why do you think it was so important for Em to see Deb close up one last time? Do you think she made the right decision to sneak into the isolation tent?
8. Why do you think Em was attracted to Ro? What do you think would have happened if they'd been able to leave for London together?
9. After the quarantine is lifted, what do you think would happen to Em? What about her mother, Aiden, and the other villagers? How would things get back to normal and how would they be forever changed?
10. *The Smallest Thing* is a contemporary story inspired by real events in history. Do you think this story could really happen today?