

Jenn J McLeod's

House for all Seasons

Book Club Questions

Jenn J McLeod's debut novel, *House for all Seasons*, tells the story of four estranged school friends summoned to return to the country town of their youth. Each must spend a season in the crumbling Dandelion house and there Sara, Poppy, Amber and Caitlin uncover the real story of the tragedy which haunts all their lives—and the ways in which they are forever linked.

The novel is a potpourri of warmth, humour, sadness and survival—a deeply moving novel about learning to love yourself and how going home can be just the magic you need.

Reading groups can use these book club discussion questions on *House for all Seasons* to explore the various themes.

1. How has Amber's past and her relationship with her mother shaped her and her relationships?
2. Will's mother, Caroline, sees Sara as a threat. Can you relate to her anxiety? Is it justified?
3. Poppy's story has strong views of press/media ethics. Do you feel the author handled this subject responsibly/prudently/perceptively? Was it a balanced view?
4. Once Caitlin discovers the secret, she has to decide who and what to tell. Do you think she makes the right decision? What might you have done differently?
5. By the end of the novel, which character do you think has grown the most?
6. Each woman's growth is in a way 'guided' by a secondary (and influential) character (eg Sara & Elliot, Poppy & Eli, Amber & Christopher, Caitlin & Alex). How did the secondary characters influence each woman's journey?
7. Do the characters seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?
8. The story deals with redemption, recovery, renewal, and release. Can you marry these four themes with each woman/part of the story: *Tall Poppy*, *Surviving Summer* (Sara), *Amber Leaves* and *Wynter's Way* (Caitlin)?
9. Was the ending satisfying? If not, what would you have done differently as the author?
10. By the end of the novel who do you now see as the linchpin (or central) character who ties the story together?

If you have a burning question you'd like me to answer, let me know.