

A Game for All the Family

Reading Group Questions

1. Is Justine a sympathetic character? How do you feel about her decision “to do nothing”, and her taking matters into her own hands at the end of the book? Do you see her as a good person?
 2. There are at least two stories-within-stories in the novel. How do you think these stories intersect, and work together?
 3. Beaconwood is a very unusual school and its headmistress, Lesley Griffiths, has an unusual approach to education. How does this affect the characters, and the plot?
 4. Most of the characters in A Game for All the Family lie, some more than others. Can lies be justified? Do they make a character unsympathetic? What does the novel say/think about the various different kinds of lies?
 5. Alex says that lies “can create facts. So can fictions.” How is this reflected in the novel?
 6. One character describes George’s parents in the following way: “Nice, normal dad and unhappy neurotic mum.” Do you agree with this assessment? How would you describe the Donbavands?
 7. A Game for All the Family does not feature a series detective. Why do you think this is? Could it, nevertheless, be considered a detective novel?
 8. How would you classify this novel? To which genre do you think it belongs?
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9. Speedway House was inspired by Agatha Christie’s home, Greenway, which is referenced in the novel. Do you see Agatha Christie’s influence at work in the novel?
 10. Would you want to live in Speedwell House? Why, or why not?
 11. What do you think about Justine’s premonition at the beginning of the book, when she sees the house by the side of the busy road?
 12. What right/duty do you think we all have to interfere in the lives of others, if we suspect those others of doing serious harm? How does this relate to the novel?