

Lost Children's Project  
**Book Discussion Questions**

Question Set #1 – People and Places

What is the situation of the main character as the book opens? Describe the material goods, social institutions, religious practices, and taboos that are discussed.

Question Set #2 – Tipping Points

What events occur that change the situation of the child for good or bad? How would these events be different if the child were: older; a different gender; born in a different country; belonged to a nuclear family; belonged to a different economic class; or had a healthy lifestyle?

Question Set #3 – Important Objects

What small objects in the book do these children cling to, or in some cases throw away (family heirlooms, toys, found objects)? Are any of them illegal? What feelings associated with them (e.g. punishment, hope, happiness)? Do they take on a new role because of their use by the child? What objects play a similar role in your life? Has this object's cultural significance changed for you after reading about their use and meaning in other cultures and situations?

Question Set #4 – Names

What names are mentioned in the book (e.g. people, places, objects)? Is there any indication that the name was given for a particular purpose (e.g. birth name, nickname, ownership, to keep a secret)? How are names used to ostracize the child from a group; or how are names used to include the child in a particular group?

Question Set #5 – Daily Rituals

What rituals are done to the children in order to exclude them from groups? What rituals are mentioned in the book, which are taught to the children to make them feel part of a group (e.g. family; culture; marginalized group)? How are these rituals similar and/or different from those in your culture?

Question Set #6 – Myths and Lies

What is told to the child in order to make them believe in a particular person or situation? Are these myths that support cultural traditions, or lies told to the child to imprison them in their current situation? Does the child tell themselves any lies in order to cope with their changing situation?

Question Set #7 – Hope

Does the child survive or perish in the book? If the child survives, what did they do in order to bare their situation? These actions could involve holding on to objects from their family, acquiring new objects that hold a particular significance in their new situation; or believing in some one, such as a rescuer. If they didn't survive, trace the disappointing events that led to the child's demise.