

CLIFF McNISH

LILY'S MONSTER

'McNish's master-storytelling skills are at their peak.
Disturbing, extraordinary.' Philip Ardagh

Reading Group Notes

Discussion Questions

1. The main character Holly is haunted by a recent tragedy. Does this make us identify with her more, and why?
2. The little girl Lily is frightening, but also we feel sympathy for her. What elements does the author include to bring out both sides of her character?
3. There are many moments of tension and fear in this novel. Which moment was the most effective for you?
4. The AFTERLIFE is described in Lily's Monster. In what way is its depiction different from most traditional religious interpretations of the afterlife?
5. The author uses historical details to make the world Lily lived in feel real. What details were the most intriguing to you?
6. Did you see Lily's historical mother, Constance Deasy, as someone who basically let her children down or supported them when it came to her husband Denis?

7.Examine any scene you wish, and describe how the author slowly builds the tension in the scene.

8.How does the author make Lily such a vivid character when she does not speak?

9.There are several 'Dream Come True' elements in this story. One is that Holly gets to see her dead brother again. Can you name any others?

10.The subject of LOSS is at the heart of Lily's Monster. Choose three characters and identify what they have lost and what, if anything, they regain by the end.

11.The Kryss'sa'nikt is a deeply unsettling creation. What original ideas does the author use to make it so alarming?

12. By the end of the story, the main character Holly is feeling very differently about life than when we first encountered her. What are the main stages of transformation she goes through?