



MAGPIE BY EVE AINSWORTH

DISCUSSION RESOURCES

It has been a long time since Alice has felt safe. Because of *him*. Ross. But now she, Mum and her little brother Henry have finally moved far away, where Ross will never find them. It's a fresh start, Mum says. This time, she is never going back.

Slowly Alice starts to build a life for herself, at a new school with new friends. But she can't escape the feeling she is being watched. That he might be lurking, waiting to ruin everything again. That Mum might be about to break her promise. That, just when Alice is starting to feel safe, everything will be taken away from her.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "Birds are strong, but they're fragile too. Like you." This is Alfie's description of Alice. Do you agree with this statement?
2. "Smells always make me remember." Discuss the use of smells in the opening chapter.
3. Each chapter starts with Alice reflecting on her family's life with her step dad Ross. How did you feel when you were reading these flash backs?
4. Describe Alice's mum in three words.
5. If you had read *Lost* by Eve Ainsworth, you would have read about Alfie's story. How has Alfie's character developed in *Magpie*?
6. How does Alice feel about non-school uniform day?
7. Why does Alice get angry at Ben? What do you think about their friendship?
8. Finally, if you have all finished reading the book, did you correctly guess who was following Alice? How did the ending make you feel?

CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Write a one-page story from the perspective of Henry, Alice's younger brother, about his impressions of their new house.

If you, or someone you know, has been affected by the issues raised in *Magpie*, the following organisations may be able to help.

Childline: If you're a child and in a situation where you may be experiencing domestic abuse, Childline can offer some advice or support via their free, 24-hour confidential helpline for children and young people who need to talk. Phone: 0800 1111

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline: The 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline, run by Refuge is for women experiencing domestic abuse, their family, friends and others calling on their behalf. Phone: 0808 2000 247

Refuge provides safe, emergency accommodation and emotional and practical support to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Refuge.co.uk

Women's Aid provides practical support and information for women experiencing domestic violence via the Survivor's Handbook and local domestic violence services. Womensaid.org.uk

FareShare is the UK's national network of charitable food redistributors. Fareshare.org.uk