

RUNAWAY ROAD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The epigraph at the start of the book is a quote from the song Amazing Grace by John Newton (English slave-trader turned abolitionist) "I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind but now I see." Why do you think the author picked this?
2. The book is set in the border area of North-West Ireland / Northern Ireland. What did you learn about this part of the world?
3. On page 6, Ezra says, "Here you get born with a T-shirt you wear for life," and "This place can judge you for how you got born." How do we form our identity? Can you relate to Ezra's struggle against his 'labels'?
4. How were Ezra and Evie impacted by what happened in their family and by growing up in care? What are your experiences and understanding of fostering and adoption?
5. In the book, is home a place or a feeling? How do Ezra and his sister Evie's experiences of living in care affect their perception of home?
6. How does the author use humour and character voice to balance the heavier themes of the book?
7. How is Evie's neurodiversity (ASD) portrayed? Did reading her perspective change your understanding of autism?
8. What makes Alannah a good friend and how does she influence Ezra and Evie's journey?
9. What types of discrimination or prejudice have the characters faced throughout their lives?
10. Ezra, Lewis, and Grace all go through the youth justice system. Compare their outcomes; do you think the system treated each of them fairly?
11. Ruairí tells Ezra that if he doesn't talk about what's in his head, he'll "always be in prison." How do the other characters help Ezra finally open up?
12. The bond between Ezra and Evie is at the heart of this book. Why do they need each other? How does their journey to Donegal change their relationship?
13. Do you think our society gives people enough second chances, or are we too quick to judge others and prevent them from learning from their mistakes?
14. What do you imagine happens to the characters after the final page of the book?
15. On page 55, Evie had a school lesson about adjectives. What three adjectives would you choose to describe this book?

