



8N PUBLISHING

Discussion Questions for *This Ruined Place* by Michael Lawrence

1. What did you expect when you started this book? Was the story what you expected or did it surprise you?
2. Which character do you think changes the most over the course of the book?
3. Who do you think is the main character of the story?
4. Why do you think Juby insisted on calling Midge by her given name, Evy?
5. Who was your favorite character and what about them made them your favorite?
6. Rouklye is based on the real life English village, Tyneham. Had you ever heard of it before? What did you think of its fate?
7. Edwin tells Midge that Juby's view of the village isn't the only one. Whose version did you relate to more, Edwin's or Juby's?
8. There is a hint of the supernatural in this story. How did this layer of the story add to the overall tone?
9. Rouklye acts as its own character in a way. What did you learn about Rouklye that was the most interesting or impactful for you?
10. How do you feel the work of Midge's parents fits in with Midge's growing knowledge of Rouklye?
11. At the end, Midge sees a rook in the woods. Do you think it was real or part of the magic Midge experiences there?
12. Juby reveals a very heavy secret to Midge. Was that fair? Is there anyone else he should have told?
13. As it turned out, Juby wasn't the only one with a big secret. Midge finds out that Inger and Edwin have been keeping a very big secret. When Midge asks why they never told anyone, Inger says they "never found the moment." They all agree to continue keeping the secret. What do you think of their decision? Do you think the revelation changes anything for Midge? Did it change anything for you?
14. Midge destroys all the letters she was going to send to Nessa. Will she tell her friend about her summer or will she end up keeping some secrets of her own?
15. Tyneham really is available to the public in the month of August. Would you want to visit it? Is its history important and relevant to us today?
16. Were you satisfied by the explanation of the "almost there boy?"
17. The note the evacuating villagers left on the door is the real note left behind in Tyneham. The villagers left in good faith, thinking they'd return at some point. From our vantage point in history, we know no one ever returned and it's under military control to this day. What does this knowledge bring to your reading of the story?
18. Do you think something like this could/would happen today? Why or why not?
19. Do you think what happened to Tyneham is worse, better, or similar to the types of things happening today?

20. This book has been described as “haunting” and “unforgettable.” Is there anything about it that you’ll remember?