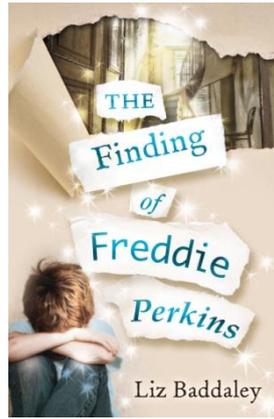


## Discussion questions for book groups on:



*'The Finding of Freddie Perkins' has been described as 'a poem of a book', 'in the tradition of Nesbit and Hodgson Burnett' and 'suitable for children from 8-108'. Its central themes of loss and hope – as well as its twisting narrative, magical surprises and rich characters – provide plenty for all ages to discuss. Here are some questions for book groups to choose from. (If you come up with new questions you'd like to share, please email [lizbaddaley@gmail.com](mailto:lizbaddaley@gmail.com) )*

### Getting started...

1. Who is the main character in the book?
2. Did the illustrations tie in with how you imagined things?
3. What did you enjoy or find particularly effective about the book?
4. Did you have any favourite passages, characters or elements?
5. Was there anything you didn't like, or didn't find effective? If so, what? And why?
6. Did you find the ending satisfying?

### Going deeper...

1. In what way(s) is the book about 'finding' and what is 'found' during it?
2. What is the most significant thing found by the Fynd?
3. Is Freddie's dad a good father? And is he a sympathetic character?
4. In the book, 'the silence' almost becomes like another character. How helpful did you find its presence and eventual departure as a way of helping the reader understand what Freddie is going through in his grief?
5. What is it about Granny P that helps her 'reach' Freddie when other adults have been struggling?
6. How does Freddie change during the course of the book?
7. How does the book celebrate the importance of multi-generational relationships and the wisdom of older people – as well as the importance and validity of a child's perspective?
8. How does the book champion the ideas that hope and redemption always triumph somehow?
9. At the beginning of the book, there is a quote from Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. Do you agree that there is nothing lost that cannot be found again if sought?

### Beyond the book...

1. Do you know families like Freddie's?
2. Loss is a common theme in children's literature – sometimes simply as a device to give children autonomy but sometimes as a prominent theme. What other children's books deal with it centrally or particularly well?
3. Why and how do stories and other art forms help us process loss in a helpful way?
4. If the Fynd was to visit your house, what would you hope it would find for you?