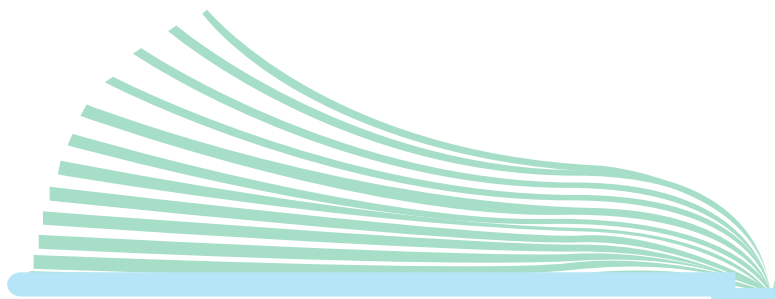
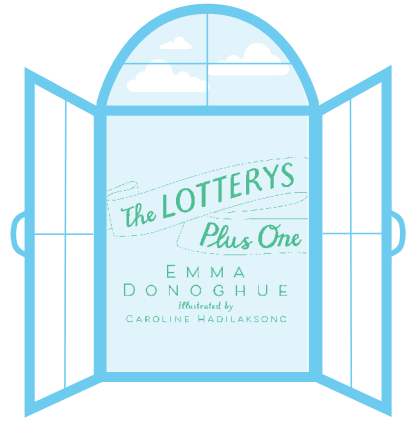


Discussion Notes

1. ***'It's a fact: We're a raggle-taggle, multiculti crew.'*** (Sic) Discuss the unusual set-up of this family. What makes the Lottery's different from a 'normal' family?
2. ***'Sumac's the keeper of the family stories, even the ones that happened before she was born.'*** (PopCorn) Discuss Sumac's personality, and her role within the family. Why do you think she is chosen by her parents to be Grumps's guide?
3. What if Sumac had a tiny family? Maybe two parents, one sibling. Or what if she was an only child, like Isabella. Discuss the pros and cons of living in a large family. How does having four parents affect Sumac and her siblings?
4. ***The only routine here is, wake up and decide what you want to learn.*** What do you think about the non-traditional teaching methods used by the Lottery parents to educate their children? How effective do you think they are?
5. ***Grumps's drippy eyes shift from face to face, and it's one of those moments when Sumac sees her family as if from outer space.*** Can you understand why Grumps struggles to understand the Lottery's when he first moves in?





6. ***Two days, thinks Sumac; the grandfather's only been here since the evening before last, but he's like a grey thundercloud hovering over the house.*** Discuss the ways in which the household is affected by Grumps at different stages of his stay. Is he responsible for any positive changes?

7. ***Brian has never actually claimed to be a boy, but she won't let anyone call her a girl either.*** What do you think of the Lottery's approach to raising Brian?

8. Discuss the author's use of humour to explore sensitive issues. Several of the characters enjoy telling jokes – do you think this is a result of their lifestyle? And did it help you to look at these issues in a different way?

