

# Ghost Forest



Discussion  
Guide

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# Discussion Questions

1. What does the term “astronaut family” mean? What are some of the challenges the narrator faced growing up in an astronaut family?
2. What are some of the ways immigration affected each family member in *Ghost Forest*? How did the mother navigate raising her two children in a new country?
3. Why do you think the author included chapters in the voices of the mother and grandmother? How do their perspectives and stories shape the novel?
4. What do you think of the narrator’s relationship with her father? In what ways does it change throughout the book?
5. How did the relationships in *Ghost Forest* make you reflect on your own familial relationships? Are they similar or different to the narrator’s?
6. Was there a character in the book that you most identified with? If so, why?
7. Why do you think the narrator is never given a name? How does this impact the way you experienced the book?
8. This novel is written as a series of nonlinear vignettes. Why do you think this is? And how did this affect your reading experience?
9. What role does visual art play in the book? What is the narrator’s relationship with art?
10. The narrator says of certain Chinese ink painters, “They left large areas of the paper blank because they felt empty space was as important as form, that absence was as important as presence.” How did you experience the empty space throughout the book?
11. How do the characters in *Ghost Forest* engage with rituals and traditions? What are some rituals and traditions in your life?
12. Did you find any moments of joy or humor in *Ghost Forest*? If so, how did that affect your reading experience?
13. In what ways does *Ghost Forest* unfold concepts of love, grief, and home?

