



Discussion Questions

Whistler

by Ann Patchett

1. Daphne and Eddie have been separated for more than forty years, yet when they meet again, their connection feels very strong. What do you think allowed their bond to survive such a long absence?
2. During the night of the accident, Eddie tells nine-year-old Daphne the story of Whistler. Why do you think that particular story stayed with her for so many years? What does Whistler come to represent as Daphne looks back on that night as an adult?
3. Daphne believes the car accident was the reason Eddie disappeared from her family and blames herself. How does learning the truth change her perspective?
4. Daphne and Jonathan have built a long life together, yet their marriage can sometimes feel more comfortable than passionate. How would you describe their relationship?
5. Daphne and Leda share the same childhood, yet they don't always experience or remember their family history in the same way. How would you describe their relationship as sisters?
6. Daphne's relationship with her mother, Abigail, is complicated by the choices Abigail made and the things she kept from her daughters. How did you feel about Abigail as a mother?
7. Daphne has several different father figures throughout her life, each influencing her differently. How did each man shape her understanding of love, family, and what it means to be a father?
8. Eddie was in Daphne's childhood for such a short time. What does the novel suggest makes someone a parent?
9. Eddie and Skip have a complicated relationship. How would you describe their bond, and what were the consequences?
10. Forgiveness plays an important role in *Whistler*, as several characters are forced to reconsider past choices and hurts. Who do you think has the most to forgive, and who is most in need of forgiveness? Are there any actions in the novel you found difficult or impossible to forgive?
11. Near the end, Eddie suggests that Daphne could write a novel. How did you interpret this moment and the final pages of *Whistler*?