

How To Be Remembered

Reading Group Guide

1. Tommy's parents wake to find a little boy in their home. Unaware he's their son, they call the police. How did you feel when they didn't even know how to hold their own child? What did this tell you about how comprehensively Tommy had been wiped from the minds of his parents?
2. In some ways, the foster system works for Tommy and his strange circumstances. Why is that? What does this say about the system he is forced to grow up in?
3. When he's 14, Tommy falls in love with Carey Price, who's also in foster care at the Dairy. How does the love he has for Carey in his youth change the way he feels about the Reset? How does that change impact the way Tommy acts as a teenager?
4. Though Tommy is exceptional at staying positive and optimistic, there are still times when he asks, "why me?" Reflect on moments in the novel when Tommy let his situation impact him emotionally, especially when he is a teenager living at the Dairy. Would you react in the same ways? Why?
5. When Tommy is in hospital after his accident he meets Josh, his future best friend and business partner. As Tommy prepares to go back to the Dairy, Josh tells him to "come and find me." Why do those words, "come and find me," stick with Tommy? How do they change his outlook on life when he returns to foster care?
6. If there is one person in his life that Tommy looks to as a parental figure, it's Miss Michelle. Describe their relationship over the years, the impact that it has on Tommy to always be forgotten by her, and the significance of Tommy's surname to Miss Michelle. How did this make you feel when reading the story?
7. Tommy's run-in with his birth father is a pivotal moment in the story, as Tommy is forced to consider what his life could have been like. Think about the idea of "what could have been." What do you think Tommy yearns for when he sees his father's life without him? How did this encounter impact you while you were reading?
8. Tommy has never forgotten Carey Price, and when they are finally thrown together one night, they form an instant connection. Do you think fate, or the universe, has anything to do with their relationship? Why or why not?
9. Carey tells Tommy that it's not just his life that is affected by the Reset, but in fact, many people's lives are changed forever when the universe wipes him. When looking at it this way, whose lives have been changed because of Tommy's? Does this shift in perspective change the way you think about the Reset and its consequences?
10. Tommy ends up feeling sympathy for Richie Sharpe, because he's been used by the Reset. Do you think this sympathy is deserved?
11. Discuss the themes of remembrance and legacy within the novel. Then, reflect on and discuss the ways that *you* want to be remembered, as well as the legacies you hope to build.
12. Discuss the end of the novel. Do you think Tommy got what he most hoped for in life?
13. If you only had a few items, including people and pets, to bring through with you during a Reset, what would they be and why?