

# GIVE A BOOK

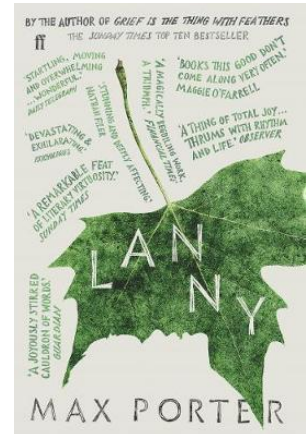


# PRISON READING GROUPS

## **Lanny, by Max Porter**

***'Fusing the modern with the mythic and the prosaic with the polyphonic, Porter's spare, spectral novel mines folklore, fable and the deep-dug tendrils of village life for something both age-old and vibrantly alive.'***

As a novel, **Lanny** is a literary patchwork of themes, genres and ideas. Drawing on mythology, on the significance of art and nature (and their inseparability), Porter constructs a world in which the reader explores friendship, childhood and the natural world. The words move across the page and render the book as something alive, something breathing, and something waiting to be discovered.



## **Questions**

1. What was your initial reaction to the visuals of the novel? What effect did you find the different typesetting, such as the words curving and spreading across the page, had on your engagement with the novel?
  
2. How does the shifting narrative voice (e.g. Lanny's Mum, Dead Papa Toothwort), affect your reading of the book? Do you think the various voices were developed well within the novel, or would you have preferred just one or two voices?
  
3. How does the lack of speech marks affect our reading of the text? Does it make it flow better, or make it more difficult?

4. Porter often takes a somewhat comedic or sarcastic tone in the book. What did you think of how the book then deals with serious issues? Do you think it makes light of them, or uses humour to cover them well?

5. What would you say is the book's main message to the reader? What is your biggest take away of all from your reading experience of it?

6. What comments do you feel, if any, that the novel makes about class privilege?

7. What does the book say about humans and their relationship to nature? Are we too close, or not close enough, to the natural world?

8. Would you recommend this book to someone else?

## **About the author**

Max Porter is a bookseller and editor turned writer. Prior to his writing career, Porter won the Bookseller of the Year Award in 2009. He was Editorial Director at Granta and Portobello Books until 2019.