

# READING GROUP QUESTIONS

## THE YOUNG TEAM by Graeme Armstrong

1. Did you know what a young team was before you read the book?
2. The book is set in North Lanarkshire and written in local dialect. Is it important that a writer can put their authentic voice on the page? How did you find reading it? (Or listening to it: the author reads the audiobook himself.)
3. These young people and this community are not typically seen in literature. Have you read anything like this before?
4. Gang life is full of violence but it also offers friendship; substance abuse gives the characters thrilling highs as well as crushing lows; scenes are scary and tragic but also frequently very funny. Are Azzy and his friends responsible for their situation or trapped by it?
5. Do the men in the book behave well towards women? Do they behave well towards each other?
6. Did the book change your mind about any of the people it represents or the issues it explores?
7. This book is based on the author's own experiences but it is a novel not an autobiography. Why do you think the author chose to write a work of fiction?
8. How does Azzy change over the course of the novel? Who helps him? Who doesn't? Why?

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