



8-22 August 2019

- 1 Despite being set in a fictional small town, *Cedar Valley* has a strong sense of place. What elements does Holly Throsby use to achieve this? What aspects of real towns that you know do you recognise in her fictional settings?
- 2 *Cedar Valley* looks at a range of family relationships—for instance Benny with her parents, and Tony Simmons with his parents, wife and daughter—and the impact of these sometimes difficult relationships across generations. How did your feelings towards these characters change as you uncovered more about their backgrounds and family relationships?
- 3 In *Cedar Valley* Holly Throsby turns the 'Police Procedural' style of crime writing on its head. While there's plenty of details around the procedural approach to the investigation, there's also a more human touch—the police are sometimes portrayed in a slightly slapstick, almost comical fashion. How did you find this in contrast to other crime writing?
- 4 There are a broad range of peripheral characters in the book, do you recognise any of them from small towns you know? Who were your favourite characters in the book and why?
- 5 Holly has used a true unsolved mystery as both inspiration and as a plot device, did you know about the case of the Somerton Man before reading the book, and if so, did this knowledge affect your reading of the story?
- 6 What did you think of the ending of the book? Were all your questions answered?