# Wavewalker – Book Club Questions

1. What were Gordon’s motivations for leaving England, and how did they align with the rest of the family's desires?
2. How does Suzanne initially react to life on *Wavewalker*?
3. What is the emotional and physical impact for Suzanne of The Wave, and the operations she endured on Isle Amsterdam?
4. In Hawaii, Suzanne hoped for a return to England. What is the emotional impact on Suzanne of the family vote?
5. How does Suzanne challenge the gender roles assigned to her on the boat? Why did she do this?
6. What role does education play for Suzanne, and how does it become her form of rebellion?
7. Is it right for parents to expect their children to work, as Gordon and Mary did? What is a reasonable parental expectation?
8. Physical safety plays a role throughout the book, both in the Indian Ocean when the family is shipwrecked, and later when *Wavewalker* goes on reefs and when Gordon decides to take part in a nuclear protest. What impact does her parents’ attitude to risk have on Suzanne?
9. Why do you think Suzanne’s relationship with her mother deteriorates so dramatically in the second half of the book?
10. Suzanne has said in interviews that her time in New Zealand was emotionally the most difficult. Why do you think she feels this way?
11. What role does Suzanne’s fight to get a place at university play in the emotional climax of the book? What obstacles—logistical, emotional, and financial—does Suzanne overcome?
12. In what ways does the book depict Jon as reacting to his time on *Wavewalker*. Why do you think his experience was so different to Suzanne’s?
13. Several promises, big and small, are broken over the course of the memoir—like the flamenco dress, the ring and the family’s return to England. How do these affect Suzanne’s emotional development?
14. In what ways do the arrival of Simone and other outside figures help Suzanne start to ‘break free’ from her past?
15. Suzanne’s search for *Wavewalker* in adulthood serves as a coda. What does the boat symbolize for Suzanne?
16. What lessons or messages about resilience, ambition, or survival did you take away from Suzanne’s journey?
17. If you were offered the chance to live on a boat for several years as a teenager, would you have welcomed it? Why or why not?