# Between a Wolf and a Dog by Georgia Blain

## Synopsis

Outside, the rain continues unceasing; silver sheets sluicing down, the trees and shrubs soaking and bedraggled, the earth sodden, puddles overflowing, torrents coursing onwards, as the darkness slowly softens with the dawn.

Ester is a family therapist with an appointment book that catalogues the anxieties of the middle class: loneliness, relationships, death. She spends her days helping others find happiness, but her own family relationships are tense and frayed. Estranged from both her sister, April, and her ex-husband, Lawrence, Ester wants to fall in love again.

Meanwhile, April is struggling through her own directionless life; Lawrence’s reckless past decisions are catching up with him; and Ester and April’s mother, Hilary, is about to make a choice that will profoundly affect them all.

## Discussion questions

1. The title of the book, Between a Wolf and a Dog, comes from a French expression, L’heure entre chien et loup which refers to the twilight hour between day and night, where shadows make it difficult to tell the difference between a wolf and dog. Do you think the title evokes a certain feeling throughout the book? If so, what is it?
2. Ester, April, Hilary, and Lawrence each have their story told from their own perspective. Why do you think this narrative device was chosen?
3. Each of these four characters has a deep sadness —in some cases related to each other. How do you think that sadness is expressed throughout the book in their actions?
4. We don’t find out the secret between Lawrence and April until towards the end of the book. Were you surprised by this reveal? And did it change your opinion of the characters?
5. Hilary has a sense of solitariness in her illness. Even though she has her daughters to support her, she wants autonomy over her own body. What do you think about Hilary’s final decision? And how do you think Ester and April will react to Lawrence’s part in it? How do you think Lawrence will feel about the part he’s played?
6. The relationship between Ester and April is fraught with disappointment and betrayal. We get the impression that this has been the case since they were children. Discuss the sisters’ relationship and how it affects the wider family.
7. Amidst the hurt and sadness scattered throughout this book, there is a beautiful, warm sense of love and compassion. Where did you find this? And between which characters?
8. Do you think April and Ester will reconcile? Why or why not?

*Discussion questions from https://scribepublications.com.au/books-authors/books/between-a-wolf-and-a-dog-9781925321111*