



## RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary and lower secondary  
(ages 13+; years 8+)

## CONTENTS

1. Plot summary 1
2. Discussion points 2
3. Order form 3

## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Ethics and Values

## THEMES

- Non-traditional families, relationships within step-families
- Emotional, physical and sexual abuse within a family and within a romantic relationship
- LGBT relationships
- School cliques and fitting in
- Dark magic, ghosts and the supernatural

## PREPARED BY

Prepared by Moira Fowley-Doyle

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

9780552571302 (paperback) ; 9781448193967 (ebook)

**These notes may be reproduced free of charge for use and study within schools but they may not be reproduced (either in whole or in part) and offered for commercial sale.**

Visit [www.randomhouse.com.au/teachers](http://www.randomhouse.com.au/teachers) for information on other Random House Australia teachers' resources and great books for the classroom, and to sign up for our Teachers' eNewsletter.

Copyright © Random House Australia 2015  
Published by Corgi



## THE ACCIDENT SEASON

Moira Fowley-Doyle

### PLOT SUMMARY

It's the accident season, the same time every year. Bones break, skin tears, bruises bloom.

The accident season has been part of seventeen-year-old Cara's life for as long as she can remember. Towards the end of October, foreshadowed by the deaths of many relatives before them, Cara's family becomes inexplicably accident-prone. They banish knives to locked drawers, cover sharp table edges with padding, switch off electrical items - but injuries follow wherever they go, and the accident season becomes an ever-growing obsession and fear.

But why are they so cursed? And how can they break free?

A bewitching, dark and beautiful debut novel about secrets, family and love.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Moira Fowley-Doyle is half-French, half-Irish and lives in Dublin with her husband, two young daughters and one old cat. Moira's French half likes

red wine and dark books in which everybody dies. Her Irish half likes tea and happy endings.

Moira spent several years at university studying vampires in young adult fiction before concentrating on writing young adult fiction with no vampires in it whatsoever. She wrote her first novel at the age of eight, when she was told that if she wrote a story about spiders she wouldn't be afraid of them anymore. Moira is still afraid of spiders, but has never stopped writing stories.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

### Accidents Happen

1. Accidents take place throughout the story, from minor bruises to Alice's more serious car accident, while the reader is made aware of accidents that took place prior to the story's beginning, too. What effect do these accidents – and the knowledge that one may take place at any moment – have on the reader? Is the reading experience always an enjoyable one?
2. Cara and Alice's mother tries to prevent her children from being involved in further accidents by switching off electrical appliances and encouraging them to wear additional layers of clothing, among other things. Do you think her approach is logical and effective? Would you behave in a different way, faced with the same situation?

### Cara's Crowd

1. Cara, Sam and Bea take the role of outsiders at school, while Alice and Toby are part of the popular gang. How realistic do you think the cliques often portrayed in YA literature and movies really are?
2. Cara spots what she believes to be four strangers in a passing train, dressed as the characters that she and her siblings and friends will adopt for themselves. To what extent are Cara, Alice, Sam and Bea in control of their own destinies in the story?

### Love Hurts

1. For many of the couples in *The Accident Season*, their romantic relationships are anything but smooth sailing. Consider Cara and Sam; Alice

and Nick; Alice and Bea; Melanie and Christopher. What are the potential problems facing each of these relationships? Do you think external factors are always to blame, or are the characters themselves badly matched or at fault?

2. Can you imagine a future for Cara and Sam? Do you think the accident season and the shared tragedies in their past played a part in bringing them together, or did it make things harder for them? Was their kiss – and their wider romance – inevitable?

### Black Cats and Tarot Cards

1. Of the four main characters, Alice is the most cynical about the accident season, the magical and the supernatural; on the other end of the spectrum, Bea wholeheartedly embraces her tarot readings and her 'witch' persona. Do you think the reader is being persuaded towards one of these viewpoints? Are we intended to believe in the accident season, or are we left to make up our own minds? Do you feel that the ending is left open to interpretation? How do the characters of Cara and Sam affect the reader's outlook?
2. What role does the Ghost House have in the story?

### Like Father, Like Son

1. Sam worries that the kiss he and Cara shared might mean he is like his father, Christopher. How much do you think genetic links can influence behaviour? Do you believe a person's personality and character traits are inherited from their parents? Does this change if that family is step or adoptive?

### Narrative Perspective

1. The majority of the story is told from the point of view of Cara, who we learn late in the story has – whether consciously or unconsciously – allowed herself to forget or to push away in her mind certain memories and knowledge about what her ex-stepfather, Christopher, did to Alice as a child. Is Cara a wholly reliable narrator?
2. What do the flashback scenes told from Alice's perspective add to the story?



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
The Accident Season	Moira Fowley-Doyle	9780552571302	8+	\$19.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES ARE RECOMMENDED RETAIL ONLY AND MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF PRINTING. PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE.

<p>NAME: _____</p> <p>SCHOOL: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____</p> <p>POSTCODE: _____</p> <p>TEL: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>ACCOUNT NO.: _____</p> <p>PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____</p>	<p>PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.</p>
---	--

