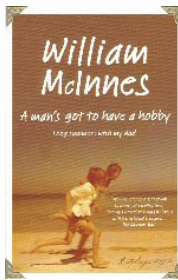


Book Club Discussion Notes



A Man's Got To Have A Hobby: Long Summers With My Dad

By William McInnes

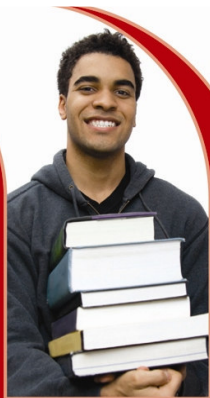
Author Biography

William McInnes grew up in Queensland. He now lives in Melbourne with his wife – filmmaker Sarah Watt – and their two children. William's TV roles in *SeaChange* and *Blue Heelers* have made him a household name. The mini-series *Shark Net* and *My Brother Jack* earned him widespread critical acclaim, as have his many stage performances throughout Australia, while cameo performances on shows like *Kath & Kim* have earned widespread laughter. He has been nominated for numerous stage and screen awards, and has won a Variety Club Drama Award in 1997 and two Logie awards for Most Outstanding Actor in 2000 and 2004.

About the book

William's father was the archetypal stoic Aussie bloke: a hero on the battlefield and a disaster-waiting-to-happen around the house. While William and his siblings were crawling all over Redcliffe, Queensland, and causing havoc, their dad was enthusiastically immersing himself in Labour Party fundraising activities – chook raffles were all the rage, and mysteriously, a bloke who bore a keen resemblance to William's father's mate Uncle Reg always seemed to win – and other hobbies, such as building monster incinerators and keeping the house in good nic. Meanwhile, William's mother strives for patience – and complicity – with her energetic family.

With humour and great affection, William writes about his family and the characters in their lives, their misadventures, pranks, dreams and triumphs. It is a book about people who aren't famous but should be. It's about cane toads and families, love and hope and fear, laughter, death and life. Most of all, it is a realistic, down-to-earth book by a man who had a great time growing up. His warmth and humour light up every page.



Book Club Discussion Notes

Website:

<http://www.hachette.com.au/williammcinnes/>

Other titles:

Cricket Kings
That'd Be Right

Points for Discussion:

1. Much of the story is set in the 1970's – what are your recollections of what made the 70's?
2. Politics in the 70's was a dynamic time in Australia's history – what do you recall and how did this shape your life?
3. What family idiosyncrasies, rituals or traditions do you have – the incinerator in the back yard, nicknames, Christmas, sports?
4. What do you recall about growing up and making the decisions for your career – what did your parents think at the time?
5. Have you been to a school reunion ? Describe how you felt and what you discovered about the people you once knew.
6. What memories of sports stars do you have of your teenage era?
7. The death notice was a hilarious stunt, what are your family stories or practical jokes?
8. The death of Aunt Rita is delivered with humour and great sensitivity, what was your reaction?
9. William McInnes weaves humour, Australianisms and generates a wealth of memories of growing up. Discuss his writing style and why it works so well.
10. How did growing up in Redcliffe Queensland shape Williams life? Were the experiences similar or different to yours?