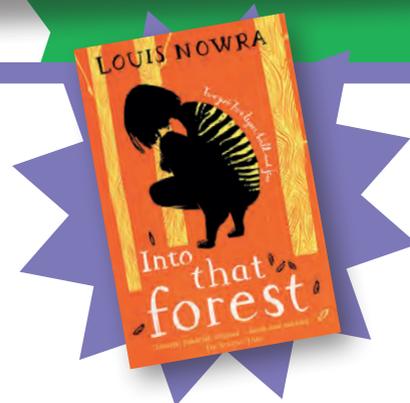


# School Library Pack 2014: Future Classics

## *Into that Forest* by Louis Nowra A Guide for Reading Groups



### About Louis Nowra

Louis Nowra was born in Melbourne in Australia. He is best known as a playwright, but has also written novels, factual books and libretti. *Into that Forest* was Louis' first book for young people.

### About *Into that Forest*

Hannah and her friend Becky are enjoying a day out on the river with Hannah's parents when disaster strikes and all four are swept overboard. Washed ashore, the two girls awake to find themselves alone in the wilderness, being watched over by Tasmanian tigers. At first, they are afraid, but as the girls find themselves growing closer to the tigers in order to survive, they also uncover the wild side of themselves. Isolated from all other human contact, they begin to forget their former way of life, and even their language. Life in the bush can be brutal but their ultimate return to civilisation, after four years with the tigers, proves to be even more traumatic and painful.

### Characters

**Hannah** – Hannah is the daughter of a whale hunter. She is brought up by Tasmanian tigers following an accident in which her parents are killed.

**Becky** – Becky is friends with Hannah. When the accident occurs, Becky is also brought up by tigers.

**Tigers** – Hannah and Becky are brought up by two Tasmanian tigers who they name Dave and Corinna.

### Questions for discussion

1. Talking about the tigers, Becky hisses to Hannah, 'They are killers. They kill sheep.' (p15)  
Who else kills in the book? Do you think it is fair that the tigers are persecuted?
2. Was it brave of Hannah and Becky to go into the tigers' cave? What led them to make such an extreme decision?
3. Why do you think Becky tried to resist becoming like the tigers whilst Hannah joined in with them so readily?

#### You might find it useful to think about:

- The different ways that Becky resists becoming like the tiger, what might it mean if she adopted those ways
- The backgrounds of the two girls, are there reasons why Becky might feel more scared whilst Hannah might be less concerned about the savage ways of the tigers
- Do you think Hannah might feel she has more of a hope of being rescued? If so, why?

4. 'She understood that it was the four of us against nature and only by being close would we survive.' (p66)

At what point in the book do you think Becky becomes more like the tigers and what do you think happens to change her mind?

5. When hunting why do the girls feel so alive? Did reading the book make you feel alive, or appreciate what it was to be alive more? In what ways?

6. The book describes how the girls eat raw flesh and how they hunt different creatures. Did any of this make you feel uncomfortable? If so, in what ways? Do you think the book is ever cruel?

**You might find it useful to think about:**

- The shooting of the baby tigers: how does this compare with the way they hunt the baby wombats?

- The way the two girls were separated when they were captured, why do you think this was done?

- The way Becky dies

7. Has reading the book changed your opinion or helped you to understand more about wild and endangered species?

8. What effect do you think Hannah's time living with the tigers had upon the rest of her life? Do you feel it generally changed her life for the better or for the worse?

## Extension activity

Why not try to find out more about the Tasmanian tiger. Do you know when they were thought to become extinct? See if you can find out what factors led to its extinction? Can you think of any other species which are on the brink of extinction? What arguments would you make to try to ensure their conservation?

## Further Reading

For other wildly exciting reads why not try?

*Bone Jack* by Sara Crowe

*Stig of the Dump* by Clive King

*Wild Boy* by Rob Lloyd Jones

*Urgle* by Meaghan McIsaac

*Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver