Listening: C1

An interview about two books

Listen to an interview about two books to practise and improve your listening skills.

# Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

## Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

**Vocabulary Definition**

1. …… flawed
2. …… a narrator
3. …… troubled
4. …… to immerse yourself in
5. …… to mistreat
6. …… an instinct
7. …… wrongdoing
8. …… the lowdown

# **Tasks**

## Task 1

* 1. to completely surround yourself with
	2. showing distress or anxiety
	3. having a fundamental weakness or imperfection
	4. something you naturally feel or want to do
	5. the person telling a story
	6. the most important information about something
	7. to treat badly
	8. bad or illegal behaviour

**Write the phrases in the correct group.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| About an adolescent child | Was challenging for the podcast presenter to finish | Features a normal family |
| Partly told from a child’s perspective | Includes murder in the story | Involves three generations of one family |
|  |
| ***Her Mother’s Daughter*** | ***We Need to Talk About Kevin*** |
|  |  |

**Task 2**

Circle the best answer.

**1. The presenter and Helen differ on …**

a. how they see the characters in the book.

b. what they think about the quality of the writing.

c. how much they enjoyed reading the book.

**2. Helen enjoyed *Her Mother’s Daughter* because …**

a. it’s totally different from the books she writes herself.

b. it’s totally different from her own life.

c. it has a happy ending.

**3. What is *Her Mother’s Daughter* about?**

a. The problems a mother has with her husband and children.

b. The way a mother’s childhood affects her when she has children herself.

c. A child who does something shocking that her parents can’t understand.

4. Why are sad books about families popular, according to Anna?

a. They make us feel as if our own families are better than the ones in books.

b. All families have similar problems, they’re just less dramatic.

c. People have small families nowadays so they like reading about other families.

**5. What aspect of *We Need to Talk About Kevin* will people be able to relate to?**

a. what it’s like to bring up teenagers

b. how we feel when people we know are killed

c. how it feels to be a victim

**6. What do the two books have in common?**

a. They’re both about happy homes.

b. They’re both about how parents affect their children.

c. They’re both about how parents worry about their children.

## Discussion

Do you like to read ‘dark’ books

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