**Eight Lives Reading questions**

1. Why do you think Susan Hurley chose to open Part 1 of *Eight Lives* in Natalie's beauty salon? What does this scene tell us about Natalie's relationship with her brother?
2. How does David's identity as a Vietnamese immigrant influence the course of events throughout the novel? Discuss how (if at all) his race plays into his relationships with Rosa, Miles and Charlie Cunningham.
3. In your opinion, who was the strongest character in this book and why?
4. Do you think David was right to end his life the way he did, mystifying those who loved him? Did he have a choice?
5. 'I'd like to be able to say I was stricken with concern after reading those two paragraphs. My boss, my saviour, now apparently sick-as in Intensive Care. But I wasn't. *This is not good news for me* – that's what I thought. I know, it sounds heartless, and it was.' (Rosa, p. 163) How do different characters embody ego in this novel, and how does ego lead to David's demise?
6. Consider the strengths and weaknesses of Abigail and David's relationship. If David hadn't died, how do you think it might have fared in the long term?
7. What is the effect of the changing first-person perspectives throughout *Eight Lives*? Why do you think Susan Hurley has decided to structure the story this way?
8. When David discovers that Rosa has gone rogue with her own experimentation on EIGHT, he tells her to 'Find a priest. Confess your sins. Repent' (p. 248). What is the significance of this response, given David is Buddhist?
9. What does PR mogul Foxy's voice add to the story? Why do you think Susan Hurley chose to include his perspective instead of those of other characters, like Charlie Cunningham or Joe Unger?
10. To what extent does Miles mature throughout the novel? What evidence is there of his character growth?