1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.

2. Whom do you immediately associate with the "lost children" of the title? How many layers of getting lost appear throughout the novel, and is it always/only children who are lost?

3. What are the most memorable and significant stops the family makes along the way? How do they reinvent themselves in various situations, and what does this flexibility in their identity suggest both about their bonds and about America today?

4. Can you identify the source(s) of conflict between the husband and wife? Which memories of their early life together and time at home with the children, as well as how they respond to the children during the car ride, suggest why they might not be able (or willing) to stay together?

5. The wife/mother is the arguably the primary narrator of the novel, and it's through her that we understand the goings-on of the trip. Does she prove herself a reliable narrator, and if not, what are her biases in telling this story?

6. The seven boxes in the family's trunk each belong to a different family member. Do you think you could identify the owner of each box based solely on its contents? What does this suggest about how the characters know one another, and also about how they chose to represent themselves in what they packed for the trip?

7. How do the stories of Manuela's daughters and the children on the plane motivate the mother on her journey and in her work?

8. By the end of the novel, has the meaning of "home" changed for the characters? What are some of the ways home was lost, found and reimagined?