

## The Vacationers by Emma Straub Discussion Questions

- Franny and Charles have been friends for a long time. How does their close relationship affect other people on vacation with them?
- From the outset, the Posts aren't too fond of Carmen. Do you think she is treated fairly or unfairly by her boyfriend's family?
- How does Bobby and Sylvia's relationship as adult siblings evolve over the course of the novel?
- At the start of *The Vacationers*, Jim and Franny's relationship is on the rocks, and it later comes dangerously close to falling apart. Is it possible to rebuild trust once it's been lost?
- This is a story about what we try to conceal from others, even from those closest to us, sometimes even from ourselves-and what we choose to show them instead. Have you ever felt like you've had to put on a good face for others?
- What was the last vacation that you went on, and who did you go with? Did it give you a different perspective on your day-to-day life at home?
- Do you think Bobby handled his financial difficulties the right way? Should he have kept these problems to himself or come clean to his family sooner?
- The infidelity in Charles and Lawrence's relationship is dealt with in a way that markedly contrasts with the other instances in *The Vacationers*. Does infidelity always have to be a big deal in a relationship?