

## BOOK GROUP GUIDE

We by Michael Landweber

1. Would you consider Ben's family dysfunctional? Would you consider their problems to be connected to the way gender, divorce, and work were viewed in that time period? How might their situation have been different in the present?
2. Ben suffers from mental challenges such as panic attacks and obsessive-compulsive tendencies that appear to have been manifesting in Binky at an early age. To what extent do you think that Binky's problems contributed to the tension among the other family members? Again, would the situation have been different in the present?
3. The way Binky depicted himself and his family members in the drawing on the refrigerator foreshadows the future. Do you think, at such an early age, Binky already felt the distance between himself and his father? How about the rivalry with his brother?
4. Ben imparts wisdom on his younger self, though much of it, including tidbits about sex and dodgeball, is poorly received and ill-advised. If you could talk to your childhood self, what would you want to share? Do you think you'd listen to yourself?
5. How does Ben deal with his control issues, particularly when he has little control over his younger self?
6. How does Ben gain the trust of Binky?
7. Do you consider your older self as a different person from your younger self? Or do you see your life as a progression of different people?
8. Sara's ordeal was terrible, but unfortunately not unusual. Studies show that 1 in 6 women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape, and one-third of rape survivors contemplate suicide. How can we change this culture of sexual violence in our society?
9. How connected do you feel we are to our own pasts? Do you find that your own recollections shift over time?