

# A Kind Man

By Susan Hill

## Suggested Discussion Questions

1. Where and when is the story set?
2. Can you compare Eve and Miriam Gooch? What are the main traits that set them apart?
3. Can you compare Tommy Carr to John Bullard? Can you describe their respective marital relationships?
4. How does each household deal with the hardships they face? Compare.
5. How do Eve and Tommy Carr face the death of their daughter?
6. How does Tommy face his cancer?
7. Have you heard of people who heal with their hands?
8. What do you think of the author's use of magical realism as a plot device?
9. How does Tommy's gift have an unexpected impact on his life? Discuss the various things that happen.
10. Why does his gift divide the town?
11. Why do you think the doctor feels threatened by Tommy's healing abilities?
12. What are the accusations made by the doctor?
13. How does Tommy attempt to mitigate the social power his gift brings?
14. Why does Tommy refuse to take any form of recompense for the healing work he does?
15. One might find something Christ-like about Tommy Carr. What's your opinion of this?
16. How does Tommy finally rationalize taking the money offered him?
17. Is there something superstitious about Eve's belief that the loss of his ability to heal is tied to the money he took?
18. What message might the author be trying to transmit regarding the ultimate sacrifice Tommy makes for Eve?
19. What can you say about the tone of the prose? How does this tone reflect the atmosphere of the town and the characters?

