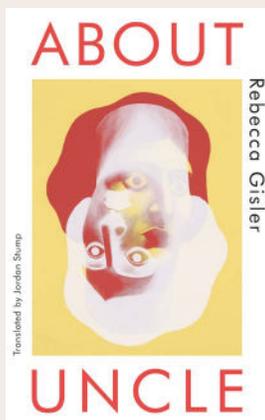


ABOUT UNCLE

Rebecca Gisler, translated from French by Jordan Stump

1. How is the character of Uncle created by the text? What emotions does Uncle elicit, and how does the novel work to balance these?
2. *About Uncle* begins with Uncle's absence but most of the narrative is infused by his proximity. How does the novel portray the relationship between isolation and claustrophobia?
3. Long sentences are a key feature of *About Uncle* and run several pages or even whole chapters. How are these sentences constructed? What effect do they create?
4. How does the novel bring attention to Uncle's embodiment? How do bodies, whether human, animal, or insect, interact with one another in *About Uncle*?
5. The novel contains many absurd and surreal elements. What impact and effect do they have on the story?
6. In addition to Franz Kafka's story "The Cares of a Family Man," the novel references the writers Emmanuel Bove (*Mes Amis*) and Eugène Savitzkaya and the punk music group Les Ramoneurs de menhirs. How do these intertexts, and others you might identify, inflect the narrative?
7. *About Uncle* is full of material objects, including gadgets and collectibles, sporting equipment, animal products, and trash. What perspective does the novel have on consumerism, accumulation, and hoarding?
8. Most of *About Uncle* takes place in Uncle's seaside cottage. How does the novel engage with and expand the conventions of domestic fiction, especially regarding gender and class, the nuclear family, and the relation between private and public spheres?



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