1. For many years Kya lives alone deep in the marsh — do you think she experiences this in the way most people understand isolation to feel?

2. What does the crime narrative add to the story of Kya’s coming of age? What would the novel be like without the crime at its centre?

3. Nature is a central character in this novel, what role does it play? And what is Kya’s relation to nature? What does Kya learn from her intense studies of animal behaviour in the marsh?

4. An early line in the book reads, "A swamp knows all about death, and doesn't necessarily define it as tragedy, certainly not a sin"? Do these words take on special meaning once the book has been read?
5. There is a film version of 'Where the Crawdads Sing' in preparation. How do you think the story will work on screen? If you were the producer, what aspects of the novel would you particularly like to highlight in a screen adaptation?