

**What Is Home, When The Heart Is A Nomad** by Zasim

From the anthology *Call And Response 2*, page 72.

1. In your opinion, what is this poem about?

2. What do you think the narrator of this poem is feeling?

3. How did you feel as you read the poem? Did your feelings change as you read it?

4. This poem was written during the COVID-19 pandemic, when migrant workers in Singapore dealt with an exceptionally difficult lockdown period. What was your own experience like during the height of the outbreak? Are there emotions or circumstances in the poem that you found similar to your own experience?

5. In this poem, Zasim writes: “Life in a world without happiness and sorrow, laughter and tears / Is incongruous.” Do you agree? What makes you feel hopeful, during difficult times?

## READING GUIDE

6. Think about the title: “What Is Home, When The Heart Is A Nomad.” How does this poem engage with the idea of home?

7. The poem is written in response to “Territorial Waters” by Krishna Udayasankar. While both works touch on themes of home and belonging, what are some differences between the two pieces that are particularly striking for you?

8. Think about the country that you reside in. Do you feel like you belong? Why, or why not? What would make you consider living and working in a country not your own?

If you would like to find out more about the conditions faced by migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore, you may read this [BBC article](#).

If you would like to volunteer with organisations that advocate for the rights of migrant workers in Singapore, you may look into [HOME](#) or [TWC2](#).

If you would like to hear more about the process of putting together the Call & Response 2 anthology, you may watch this [discussion](#) between the editors.