

LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a Look at the book cover and the book review information. What do you think the book is about? How do you think the three teenagers feel?

The wise and hilarious story of a family who discovered that having fewer tools to communicate with actually led them to communicate more.

When Susan Maushart first announced her intention to pull the plug on her family's entire collection of electronic gadgets for six months, her three kids didn't react at all. Says Maushart, "Looking back, I can understand why. They didn't hear me."

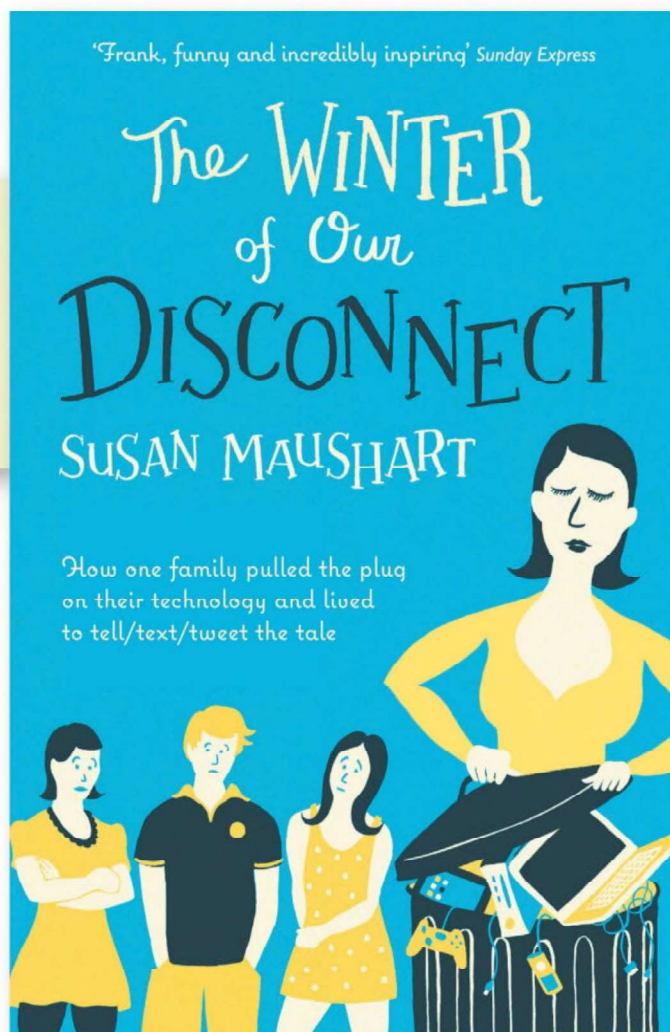
* The title is a play on words. Shakespeare's play *Richard III* opens with the famous phrase "Now is the winter of our discontent..."

- b (5 19) Listen to **Part 1** of a radio breakfast show where the guests are discussing the book. Answer questions 1–6.
- 1 Why did Susan Maushart decide to do the experiment?
 - 2 Was it just her children who were spending too much time using technology?
 - 3 Who are "digital immigrants" and "digital natives"?
 - 4 What gadgets did Susan Maushart's family have to switch off? Where?
 - 5 What were they allowed to use?
 - 6 How did she get the children to agree to the experiment?
- c (5 20) Listen to **Part 2**. In general, was the experiment positive or negative? Why?
- d Listen again and complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 At the beginning the children complained that...
- 2 Later they started to...
- 3 Her son started to...
- 4 Their mother found it difficult to...
- 5 Another negative thing was that...
- 6 They now have new house rules; for example...

- e (5 21) Now listen to **Part 3**. What does each guest say he / she would miss most if he / she had to do the experiment?

1 Sally	
2 Andrew	
3 Jeremy	
4 Chloe	



- f Discuss the questions with a partner.

- 1 Have you ever had to live without the Internet for a few days or more, e.g., when you were on vacation somewhere? Did you miss it a lot? Why (not)?
- 2 Do you think Susan Maushart's experiment was a good idea? Why (not)?
- 3 If you had to do the experiment, what do you think you would miss the most? Why?



Useful language

The thing I'd miss most is...
 I can't live without it because...
 I need / use it (for)...
 I'm addicted to it...
 I depend on it (for)...