**Characterization in The End We Start From**

1. **On pages 2-9, highlight some quotes that show the description of birth as physically overwhelming and the cost to her body.**

**This huge change happens at the same time as the flood. Explain what is shown through this simultaneous cataclysmic events.**

1. **Highlight four quotes spread throughout the novel which show the narrator’s world narrows to become focused on her role as a mother and nurturing Z.** We are immersed in her experience of motherhood and her observations of Z while in the background the world is immersed in the flood.
2. **Highlight quotes on p. 52-54 that show becoming a mother constructed in terms of success or failure.**
3. **Highlight quotes on the following pages that show the narrator focused on observing mothers around her. P. 61, 78, 103 What does this show about mothering?**
4. **When everything else changes R, then Z, and O are her anchor points. Sometimes she feels everything is out of control, untied, and everyone is leaving. She tries to physically hold onto people. She loves them and connects with them strongly. Highlight quotes on the following pages that shows this. P. 11, 13, 18, 23, 25, 51, 58, 78, 102, 106, 115, 121, 126**
5. **Explain what this quote shows about the narrator (what is her superhuman strength) and about the theme of motherhood more generally.** *Sometimes mothers develop superhuman powers when their children are in danger. It is called hysterical strength. P. 47*
6. Summarise the ways in which the narrator has changed from the start of the novel to the end. Consider physically and emotionally.
7. Describe the voice of the narrator, considering tone (emotion), language and grammatical style, intimacy or distance, what she focuses on.