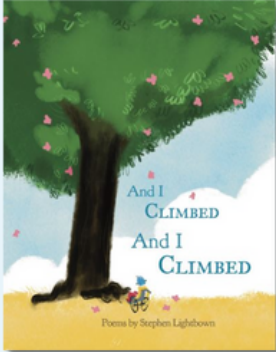


And I Climbed, And I Climbed

Stephen Lightbown
Illustrated by Shih Yu-Lin

BOOK TALK CARDS



ABOUT THE BOOK

Inspired by the author's experience as a wheelchair user, this poetry collection follows Cosmo, a young boy, whose life changes forever after falling out of the tree he loved to climb.



OUR THOUGHTS

"Delicate, poignant and an exploration of a life-changing event told through really good poetry. Brave, beautiful and thoughtfully done."



THEMES:

- Change
- Ability and disability
- Empathy
- Accountability
- Positivity

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What similarities does the poet see between himself and the tree? Do you think these are effective analogies?
- 2 Swimming makes Cosmo feel free again. What makes you feel free?
- 3 The boy says he hates the tree and yet is connected to it. Is there anything you feel connected to, but dislike? Is there any way to improve this situation?
- 4 In what ways is the tree portrayed as a living being with feelings, actions? In what ways can the tree not be held to account for the inability to catch the boy?
- 5 Do you think moving the tree will help? What might help the boy to move forwards more than moving the tree? Do you think the tree (or other items in nature) might have feelings about events they have been part of?
- 6 'Red Marks' details some of the unexpected ways the boy's life has changed since the accident.
- 7 'What do you think at night time?' is about the potential guilt the tree might feel. Have you ever been in a situation that you were part of but not responsible for? How did that make you or others feel? What did you do to try and remedy this?
- 8 In 'Why does everyone have something to say', the boy talks about people viewing him differently. How do you think others view you? How do you view yourself? If you were invisible for a day, what would you do?
- 9 There are a number of poems where Cosmo's lack of footprints are mentioned. How would it feel to leave no impression do you think? Are there other ways we can leave an impression of us behind?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

