

The Final Year

Matt Goodfellow

BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



ABOUT THE BOOK

Nate tries to make it through Year 6 and friendship struggles, when tragedy strikes his baby brother.



OUR THOUGHTS

"This book will act as an optimistic companion to those feeling alone with similar burdens, and will provide teachers with a timely reminder of why they teach and what really matters."



THEMES:

- Coping with adversity
- Empathy
- Friendship
- Resilience
- Hope

TIME TO TALK



- 1 Consider the form and structure of this story. Did you enjoy reading a verse novel – why or why not? Did you find the illustrations added to your experience of the novel? What format of books do you enjoy reading for pleasure most?
- 2 Think about the relationship between the brothers. Do you find it surprising that they are close? What might have brought them closer together? What might have kept them apart?
- 3 How does Nate's impression of the end of Y5 and start of Y6 reflect your own feelings? How is it different?
- 4 Nate spends time at the library in the holidays. How does this offer him escapism in the way that other children have a holiday?
- 5 How does this theme develop when Nate starts spending lunchtimes at school in the library too? What does the library offer him that the playground does not?
- 6 Have you read any books by Nate's favourite author, David Almond? What is similar about The Final Year and Almond's books?
- 7 What support do Mum and Auntie San offer the brothers? How does this change at different points in the story? Do you think it is ever enough?
- 8 Can you describe how the changes in friendships hurt or help Nate at different points in the story? Does he grow or learn from both the positive and the negative experiences? Does he have a friendship with his teacher?
- 9 How does writing help Nate at different times in the story? What do you use as a way of dealing with your feelings?
- 10 In what ways is the ending of the story hopeful? What is left unresolved?

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



Be The Change by Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow and Roger Stevens



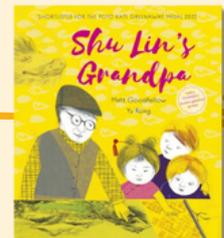
Let's Chase Stars Together by Matt Goodfellow and Oriol Vidal (illustrator)



Skellig by David Almond



The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd



Shu Lin's Grandpa by Matt Goodfellow and Yu Rong (illustrator)