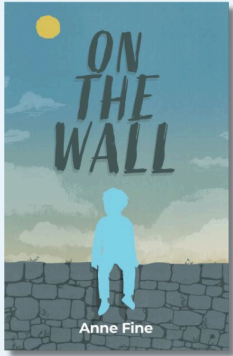


# On The Wall

Anne Fine

# BOOK TALK CARDS



KS3

## THEMES:

- Friendship
- Self-esteem
- School
- Happiness
- Self-acceptance

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Can you find happiness anywhere? Anywhere at all? Amid the chaos of breaktime, Finley Tandy sits peacefully on the wall. Mr Goodhew, watching from the staffroom, is in awe of the boy's gift for stillness, and his seemingly cast-iron happiness.



## OUR THOUGHTS

"A delightful and engaging read which explores the power of tranquility & self-acceptance. Warm & witty with an adorable main character."

## TIME TO TALK

- 1 Finley and Juliet are both starting secondary school. In what different ways do they approach starting Year 7? What vivid memories do you have of starting Year 7?
- 2 How would you describe Finley's personality? What makes him unique compared to his classmates? What do the teachers think about Finley?
- 3 How do the teachers use Finley to address Akeem's problems? Do you think this is a good idea? What do you think Finley says to Akeem to calm him down?
- 4 What does the wall symbolize in the story? How does it relate to Finley's character?
- 5 Finley enjoys sitting on the wall and doing exactly nothing. Why do the teachers allow him to do this and not encourage him to play or interact with the other children?
- 6 How do Finley's relationships with his classmates and teachers evolve throughout the book?
- 7 Finley went home and told his mum that 'he got worshipped'. Do you think his classmates secretly worship him or were they mocking him?
- 8 Why does Mr Goodhew decide to sit on the wall? What is he hoping to gain out of it?
- 9 Which students' talents do the teachers use to help them solve problems that they are struggling with? Have you ever managed to solve an issue that your teacher struggled with?
- 10 At the beginning of the book Finley says, 'I'm happy absolutely everywhere. And all the time'. Once the wall has been pulled down, he repeats the same message to Mr Goodhew at the end of the book. What have you learned about Finley's message and how could you apply it to your own life? Do you believe that you really can find happiness anywhere at all?

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

