

Oxygen Mask

Jason Reynolds

Illustrated by Jason Griffin

BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



ABOUT THE BOOK

This graphic novel in free verse encompasses the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement of the 2020 from the perspective of a teenager quarantined with his family.



OUR THOUGHTS

"It's absorbing and emotive, unusual and challenging, with a great synergy between text and image."

KS3

THEMES:

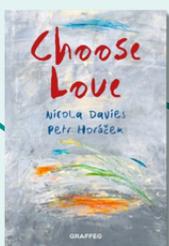
- Family
- Resilience
- Trauma
- Rules
- Community

TIME TO TALK

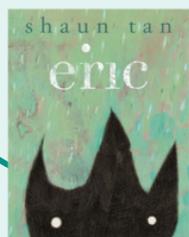
- 1 How do the images chosen reflect the mood of the narrative? Are there times when they convey more than the words? Do you have a favourite?
- 2 Read the dedication at the start – what does it mean to you?

How do the different characters respond to the incoming news?
What might their differing reactions indicate to us about how they will respond to future events?
- 3 *'...why the news won't change the story and why the story won't change into something new.'* Consider the news at this time: was it helpful to have it on so often? Why do you think this decision was made? Did you choose to watch?
- 4 *'...without worry about the rules being rearranged'* – how did you feel about all the rules? Are there any long term effects?
- 5 *'What is life in a house underwater and what is left when the whole world is wheezing'...* Consider these descriptions, how does the author create the feeling of narrowed horizons which we all experienced physically during Covid with these descriptions? Can you write one of your own?
- 6 What will be your long term memories of this time? Are there positives and negatives? Did it permanently change your approach to anything in particular?
- 7 Do you like the style/ format of this story? What appeals or not?

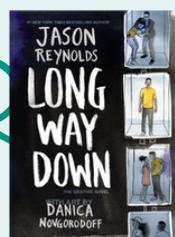
TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:



Choose Love by Nicola Davies and Petr Horacek (illustrator)



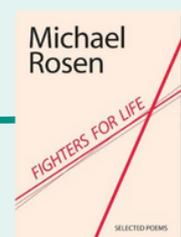
Eric by Shaun Tan



Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel by Jason Reynolds and Danica Novgorodoff (illustrator)



Running With Horses by Jason Cockcroft



Fighters For Life by Michael Rosen