



BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

- War • Refugees • Current affairs • Family
- Death • Friendship • Immigration • Personal conflict

Seven Million Sunflowers

by Malcolm Duffy

Kateryno and her family flee Ukraine after the Russian invasion to England. But their new beginning brings a whole new set of problems.



OUR THOUGHTS

“An empathic account of the effect war has beyond the drones and the battlefield. The very relatable relationships and characters offer a glimpse into lives many of us would struggle to imagine.”

TIME TO TALK

- 1 The opening chapter is very shocking, and yet is a reality in Ukraine. How would you feel if this happened to you? You could find out more by looking for news articles and feeds from the day and compare the fictionalised account with the real event. Why does Kat grab her toy and refuse to wash it? Would you do the same?
- 2 Why do you think the author skips straight to the flight into England in the next chapter and not focus on the immediate aftermath of the bombing and the longer journey the family take? What do you think Kat and the family felt during this time and how they coped with separation from Tato?
- 3 What would you think about living with a strange family?
- 4 How do cultural differences play a role in their relationships? Explore the interactions between the Kovalenko family and the Hawkins, their host family.
- 4 Why do you think the title mentions “sunflowers”? What might they symbolize?
- 5 How does the novel challenge stereotypes and encourage empathy? Can you identify the situations where Kat is feeling the effects of PTSD?
- 6 How does the book highlight the impact of war on families and individuals?
- 7 What messages about hope and survival can readers take away from the novel?

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

