

## KS3 bookclub

*Lionboy*, Zizou Corder

*When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, Judith Kerr

### Lionboy

General discussion/possible questions

- Did you enjoy the book?
- What were the best bits?
- What were the worst bits?
- Did you ever want to give up on the book? Yes or no - Why?
- Who were your favourite characters?
- Which characters did you like the least?
- Why was Charlie running away?
- Did he want to run away?
- If the father knew he could escape on the boat, was he really a captive?
- Did he make the right decision staying in the boat?
- Did the mother do the right thing by writing the code down?
- Did you feel sorry for anyone?
- What do you think to Martha and Rafi?
- Why do you think the family never really came to understand why Matha and Rafi would do such a thing? (p29)
- Did you mind that many bits could not happen in real life (see dear reader bit at the beginning)?
- Would you like to be able to talk to an animal? If so, which type?
- Does it make any difference to you that it is written by two people?
- Front covers - which is the best one, do you like them, what do the covers say about the content of the book?
- Would you recommend it to a friend?
- Will you read the next book in the series?

### When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

General discussion/possible questions

- Did you enjoy the book?
- What were the best bits?
- What were the worst bits?
- Did you ever want to give up on the book? Yes or no - Why?
- Who were your favourite characters?
- Which characters did you like the least?
- Why was Anna running away?
- Did she want to run away?
- How did her Papa feel about being a refugee? P91
- How did Anna feel about being a refugee? P94, p265
- Could this book happen in real life? (an autobiography of sorts - see Note From the Author)
- Does it make you think differently about the book knowing that it actually happened to someone?
- Anna felt she needed to face some difficulties in order to become great. What do you think to that?
- Are heroes born or are they made?
- Front covers - which is the best one, do you like them, what do the covers say about the content of the book?
- Would you recommend it to a friend?
- Will you read the next book in the series?

## General questions

- What are the similarities between the books?
- What are the differences?
- What do you think it is like fleeing from your home in fear of your life?
- Were the characters in the books frightened of running away?
- When they had left home, were they scared then?
- What did Anna and Charlie take with them?
- If you were to suddenly up and leave your home, what would you take with you?
- What were the most important things to Anna and Charlie?
- Out of the things you left, what do you think you would miss most?
- What could Onkle Julius not leave at home? And what was the price he paid for it?
- How did this affect everyone else?
- How did they affect the reader?
- What role did animals play in both books? Onkle Julius, the Jew in the kennel at the concentration camp, Pommel, Annas bracelet and pictures in the letter from OJ, Charlie and the lions/cats, Charlie's ma and the cats, Rafi and his dog
- Are some animals better than others?
- Who would you trust more, animals or people?
- Who are kinder, animals or people?
- What do we call people who leave their home country in fear of their lives? Refugees
- Were Anna and Charlie refugees? If not, why not? (Charlie was not a persecuted minority)
- Could Anna and Charlie have done anything different?
- Would you have done anything different?
- Which was your best book?

## Activity:

1.

Pick two people: what do they have in common  
Add another person: what do they all have in common  
Keep going until everyone has been added in.

## Conclusion:

You should notice that the similarities go from the very specific, e.g. we are both wearing red jumpers, to the general, e.g. we all have legs.

2.

Now take the first person picked out of the equation. What does everyone else have in common that the first person doesn't have?

Try for the second person being the odd one out.

## Conclusion:

Can everyone be left out, or are some people always left in?

## Think:

Maybe not in this group, but in other groups, for one reason or another, we can all be left out.

### • Do we like being the odd one out?

Maybe we don't care being the only one, say, not wearing socks, but suppose we are the only one left out because we have nice new shoes.

### • Would we mind that?

How about if we were the one left out because we are the only one with old, holey shoes.

### • How would that make us feel?

### • How did Anna feel when her clothes were all worn?

### • What is the difference between the two situations of being the odd one out for nice, new shoes and being the odd one out for old shoes?

In society, many people are left out for different things. In Lion Boy reference is often made to Charlie being the child of one white parent and one black parent.

### • How did he feel about this?

### • How did other characters in the book feel about it?

## Definition:

(Collins online dictionary)

A minority group: sociology

A group that is different racially, politically, etc, from a larger group of which it is a part.

## Task:

List as many UK minority groups as you can

### • So how can women be considered a 'minority group' given that they make up 51% of the UK population?

Majority group is the dominant group

Minority group is the subordinate group

Women have a smaller voice in society making them a minority group even though proportionally they make up a bigger segment of society.

### Think:

How many people (proportionally) in the UK do you think would class themselves as racist?

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-27599401>) (British Social Attitudes Survey - done every year.)

Most people will not admit to being racist, but a surprising number (1/3 of those surveyed (2000 people) in 2014 - 26%, 2017

(<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-people-admit-racially-prejudiced-white-black-asian-muslims-brexite-more-leave-voters-remain-a7973751.html>)) will admit to being 'racially prejudiced'.

#### • Why might that be?

What do you think the difference is between prejudiced and racist?

### Definition:

(Collins online dictionary)

#### prejudice:

1. variable noun

An unreasonable dislike of a particular group of people or things, or a preference for one group of people or things over another.

#### racist:

adjective

If you describe people, things, or behaviour as racist, you mean that they are influenced by the belief that some people are inferior because they belong to a particular race.

- When did Anna, Max, Mama and Papa experience racism?
- When did they experience prejudice?
- When did Charlie experience racism?
- When did Charlie experience prejudice?

### Think:

I was listening to Newsnight (Thursday 8th August 2019), and an **American professor, Ibram X Kendi**, was saying that it is not enough to be not racists, as everyone thinks they aren't racists, even racists. We need to be anti-racist if we are going to change the world for the better.

- What do you think is the difference between being not racist and anti-racist?
- Do you think it makes any difference?
- Have you ever seen or experienced and prejudice against you?
- How did it make you feel?
- Is all prejudice bad? (don't give jobs in schools to people who have abused children)
- What makes some prejudice bad and others not so?
- How do you think you can stop destructive prejudice in our society?