

TALKING POINTS

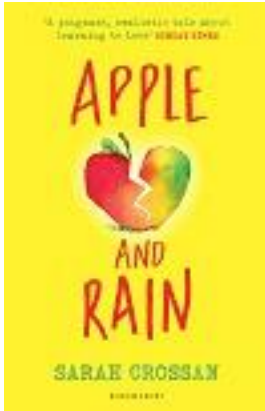
CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2015



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards

APPLE AND RAIN

By Sarah Crossan



The characters

First of all, think about these five important characters:

Mum
Nana
Del
Rain
Pilar

What do we learn about each of them from the way they treat Apple?

How does the way Apple thinks about each of them change over the course of the book? (And do your own opinions of them change, too?)

People change, Apple says. Do you think that's true?

Anyone would think from the look and sound of Rain that she's tough. But for some reason, I can't help wanting to protect her. Why do you think Apple feels protective of her new sister?

What does Apple learn about herself, from Rain and the others, by the end of the book?

The story

The book begins with unanswered questions, like why did Apple's mum leave? Is everything explained tidily by the end, or are there still questions?

Be careful what you wish for, Nana says to Apple. Is this good advice, given how the story plays out?

How do the book's section titles - Solitude, Fear, War, Love, Disappointment, Poetry - relate to their respective bits of the story?

After the party, Apple gets a nasty surprise when she learns about Egan Winters's crush. Did you guess?

Was Apple right to tell Rain the truth about Jenny?





Poetry

Why are poems important to Apple?

What makes Apple's English lessons with Mr Gaydon different from her other lessons?

Mr Gaydon says: 'Poetry is transforming'. How is Apple transformed by it?

Apple quotes Emily Dickinson – 'Tell the truth but tell it slant'. What does this mean, and how does it relate to Apple's own story?

Other questions

What do the title characters' names, Apple (Apollinia) and Rain, tell you about their parents?

What sort of place do you imagine Brampton-on-Sea to be? Have you been anywhere like it yourself?

This is the opening sentence: 'I don't remember if what I remember is what happened or just how I imagine it happened now I'm old enough to tell stories.' Can you think of examples in the book of the ways memory can be deceptive, or how people manipulate it to give themselves reassurance or comfort?

