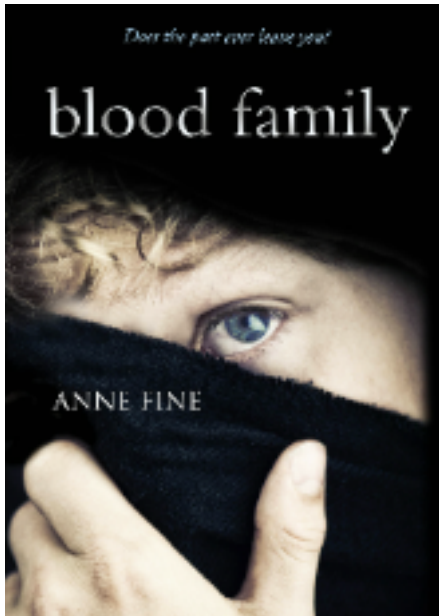


TALKING POINTS

CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2014



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards



BLOOD FAMILY by Anne Fine

Before reading

Have you read anything by Anne Fine before? If so, was it anything like *Blood Family*?

Eddie

The main character of *Blood Family* is sometimes “Eddie”, sometimes “Edward” – what’s the significance of these two changing names?

We’re told that the young Eddie loves reading, and that he loves jigsaws – why do you think Anne Fine gave him these particular characteristics? What do they tell us?

Does what we learn about Eddie’s early years explain how he behaves later in the book?

The other characters

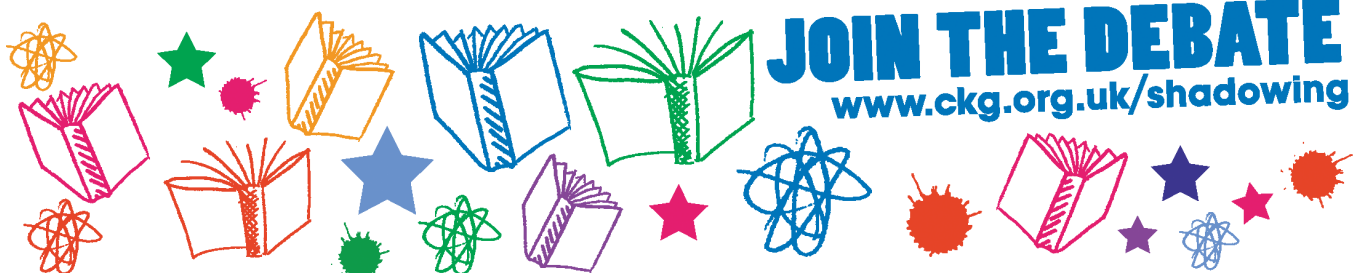
There are two important characters in Eddie’s story – Bryce Harris and Mr Perkins – whom we never actually see. What role do they play in his life? What do they each represent, in the book?

Are there any other characters who are completely good, or completely bad?

Where do our sympathies lie as we read *Blood Family*? Does this change? Is it sometimes difficult to stay sympathetic to a character we like because of things they do?

Does the book try to explain what has led Eddie’s mother to be the way she is?

What role does Alice play in the book? How are we expected to feel about her?



How the story is told

Would you describe this as a “realistic” story? It is fiction, but is it trying to tell us something about the real world we live in?

The story is told in various voices, from various perspectives – why do you think Anne Fine chose to tell it like this?

How does she make all these speakers sound different?

What do you think of the ending? What happens next?

Some themes

Think about these pairs of ideas, and how they relate to Eddie’s story in this book:

- Nature and nurture
- Strength and weakness
- Free will and inevitability

Thinking back to the title of the book, and thinking about Eddie’s different relationships described within the book, what do you think the author is trying to say about families?

Blood Family is a book about how people treat one another, how people are responsible for one another, how one person’s choices can affect many other people’s lives for the better or worse. Do you think there’s a lesson to be learned from this?



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