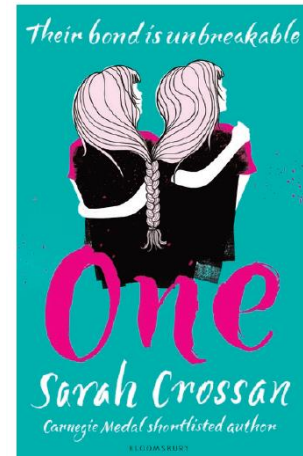


2016 Carnegie Medal shortlist reading resources

Title: **One**
Author: **Sarah Crossan**
Publisher: Bloomsbury



TALKING POINTS

Can you think of different things the title might be referring to?

Sisters

How are Grace and Tippi's personalities different?

Sometimes Grace refers to being like a "parasite", sometimes she and Tippi are described as being like a single organism, often she talks as though they were quite independent. Which other characters really treat them as individuals?

How does meeting Jon change how Grace feels about her sister?

The sisters disagree about whether they should risk sacrificing their privacy and their dignity by going on TV – which do you agree with, and why?

Characters

You could say that none of the characters in *One* are completely good or completely bad. How, for example, does this apply to

- Dad?
- Tippi?
- Caroline Henley?

When you see how the characters act towards Grace and Tippi, does it make you rethink how *you* behave towards people who are different from you?

At school

The story is set in Hoboken, New Jersey, U.S.A. – how much does the particular setting matter?

At school, everyone wants to be special – a star! – and yet everyone also wants to be normal. It's a sort of paradox. Do you think that's true for people you know?

How are Yasmeen and Jon's reactions to meeting different from everyone else's? And *why* do you think they reacted differently?

"Hatred's better than sympathy," Grace says. Why does she feel this way?

the twins



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Poem titles

Each of these is a title of one of the book's poems. How is each title significant for the book as a whole?

- The Power of Perception
- No One Mentions
- Beautiful
- A Heart that Beats for Two
- Healing

Poetry

Why do you think Sarah Crossan uses poems to tell this story?

Did you read the story differently in any way because it was told through poetry?

Have you read stories told through poems before? (If not, you might want to look at *The Weight of Water*, an earlier book by Sarah Crossan, or *Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech.)

And finally...

Can *both* these statements be true?

- This is a story about prejudice, bereavement, dependency, bad luck, loss and death.
- This is a story about honesty, good luck, independence, optimism, dignity, friendship, family and love.

Read "Nightmare" on page 318. Does it make you think differently about your own life?

What kind of person do you think should read this book?

TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights themes in this story

Freedom, dignity and equality; healthcare; education; privacy; identity; the right to participate in cultural life; freedom of expression

Human rights questions

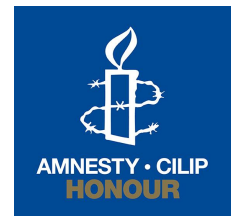
We have the right to privacy

Tippi and Grace struggle for privacy everywhere (at school, hospital, home). How important is privacy to them – and to you?

How do the girls respect each other's space?



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Would you have agreed to be filmed for the documentary?

We have the right to our own identity and to say what we think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect us

How do the girls hold on to who they are and flourish in the face of prejudice?

Who should make decisions about their future and medical treatment?

We have the right to choose our own friends

Solidarity and progress would not happen in life if people didn't care for one another. How is this played out in the book?

At school, the girls become friends with Jon and Yasmeen. What do they all have in common? Are they good friends to Tippi and Grace?

- For a full version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights go to www.amnesty.org.uk/udhr

For more free teaching resources from Amnesty International go to www.amnesty.org.uk/education



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