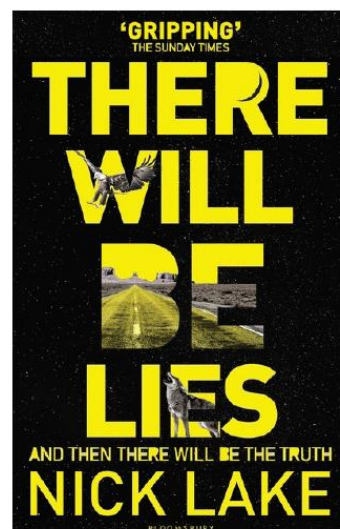


2016 Carnegie Medal shortlist reading resources

Title: **There Will Be Lies**

Author: **Nick Lake**

Publisher: Bloomsbury



TALKING POINTS

Characters

Why do you think Lake chooses to make his heroine deaf? (At what point in the book did you realise she was?)

Shaylene begins the book apparently just very over-protective, then seems to go off the rails – but how much is her behaviour explained by the secrets that the book gradually reveals?

What role is played by Mark in the book, and by the fairy tales he gives Shelby at the very start?

As the book progresses Shelby's very identity is thrown into question. Do you think the author has something he wants to say about identity itself?

Truths, Secrets and Lies

“There will be two lies, and then there will be the truth” – explain the significance of these words in relation to Shelby's story.

Why do different characters lie?

How much do you trust the narrator?

As you were reading, did your opinions change about which characters you could trust, just as Shelby's own opinions changed?

Plot

The plot is full of twists and turns – which revelations particularly surprised you? And did they work?

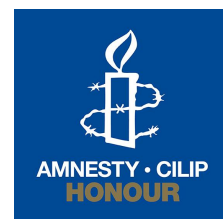
The very first page of the book feels like it might be a spoiler, yet Lake manages to keep the tension up right through the book. Can you think of some of the ways he does this?

America

How good is Lake at creating the setting of the American south-west? Did it feel vivid and realistic when you were reading?



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And what about the characters' speaking voices? Can you hear an accent in the speech Lake creates for his characters?

The Dreaming

What is it?

Why does Shelby go there?

What does she learn there?

Coyote

In his introduction, Lake talks about his own experience of seeing a coyote – how does he develop this image into the book?

What role does Navajo mythology play in the book, and particularly through the presence of Coyote?

“Coyote is chaos. He takes order and routine and he breaks it.” How do these words, spoken in the book, apply to Shelby's story?

TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights themes in this story

Life, freedom and safety; protection from kidnapping; identity; right to a family; disability rights; education; justice

Human rights questions

We have the right to an identity

Who is Shelby?

What is the author trying to say about identity?

We have the right to be treated as an equal

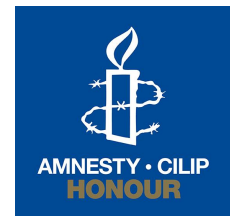
How is Shelby treated when people learn she is deaf? Does your opinion of her change?

How does her mother create an environment where her disability is not treated as a barrier?

Are Shelby's rights respected by any adult? If so, by who and how?



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HONOUR

We have the right to a family home and education

On the face of it, Shaylene provides an education for her daughter and keeps her safe – but at what cost?

Shelby loves Shaylene but is angry and hurt when she learns the truth. Why does Shelby decide to contact Shaylene? Would you visit her in prison?

Why does Shelby decide to live in a home of her own?

At the end, what rights has she claimed that she didn't have at the beginning? What does that say about her?

- 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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