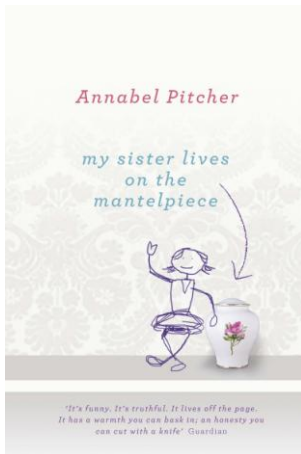


TALKING POINTS

CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2012



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards



My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE TEN?

Jamie, the narrator, is ten years old. How can you tell?
Are there any ways in which he seems:

- Younger than his age. Why might this be?
- Older than his age. Why might this be?

Why can you enjoy this book if you are older than ten?

Jamie gives the reader a clear picture of what the world looks like to him, because he notices a lot of detail about his surroundings.

ACTIVITY

Write down some memories of when you were ten years old. Do this in stages:

1. Write lists of specific details from the year you were ten that you have a good feeling about:

- What you liked eating
- The music you liked
- TV programmes you remember
- Who your best friends were
- What your favourite clothes were.
- Presents you got for your birthday.

2. Think of a specific occasion associated with one item from each list. Describe the occasion in a short piece of writing, for example a time when you had your favourite kind of pizza or got a new jumper.

3. Read through what you have written and try to re-tell it as if you are still ten years old. Use expressions you might have used then and include details about things or people you cared about then. For example, you might have had a teacher you liked or played a game that you don't play any more.

INSIDE JAMIE'S HEAD

Jamie is very aware of time passing. List some of the ways he shows this.

On the first page, he refers to something that happened 'seventy one days ago'. When does he mention it again and how much time has passed?

Why might it be important to Jamie to keep close track of time?

A WORLD BLOWN APART

Jamie's family is damaged when his sister is killed by a terrorist bomb. What real events do you know about that had similar effects?

Collect articles and photographs related to families who lost loved ones in terrorist attacks, and examples of the attitude towards Muslims displayed by Jamie's father.



FAMILY VALUES

Look in turn at the other members of Jamie's family: Jas, his father and his mother. How do they show how they feel about Rose's death and about what happens afterwards? Who do we learn most about in the book, apart from Jamie?

MOURNING

What sorts of comments do people make to Jamie about Rose's death and how helpful are they? How do others expect Jamie to show his sadness? How does he really show it? What are the events in the story that he is most upset by?

SHOWTIME

What do Jamie and Jas gain by going to the talent show in Manchester? Why does Jas choose the costume that she does?

MOVING ON

Would you say that the end of the story is happy? What might Jamie, Jas and their father now look forward to?



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