

Statements on fiction and non-fiction for small group discussion, followed by individual exploratory writing

Fiction and non-fiction are both entertaining. In lots of ways, they cross over.

Non-fiction can never be 100% fact. It's always going to have elements of forgotten memories or exaggeration.

Non-fiction is not written to entertain. It is only written to tell.

The truth can never be 100% the truth.

It is possible to tell both the truth and an entertaining story.

A person cannot tell another person's story 100% accurately. That would be impossible.

It is not right to tell someone's sad story to entertain readers.

Non-fiction should always lead us to think about serious issues.

Non-fiction cannot be 100% not fiction if it is written to entertain.

Children see things differently than adults. A child's perspective can be captured in writing though.

Lucy Hinchliffe's modelled exploration of her own thinking on a different, related statement:

'Memory is unreliable, and we remember odd details when we look back.'

It's strange that Enaiat remembers kaka Rahim's fuzzy haired face, for example, or the way he smoked a cigarette, or how his newspaper looked. This is strange to me based on the fact that I would have thought Enaiat had far bigger things on his mind, like his abandonment. The way it's told, it's like this point in his life was so crucial that he's almost forgotten nothing at all. Despite this, Geda says in the Author's Note that we should think of the book as fiction. The level of detail definitely reads like fiction, especially all the imagery, so it's hard for me to think of this as someone's real life.

One student's individual written response after group discussion and Lucy Hinchliffe's modelled exploration

'Non-fiction can never be 100% fact. It's always going to have elements of forgotten memories or exaggeration.' This statement links very well with the story as in the author's note, he says 'Enaidollah didn't remember it all perfectly' and 'This book must be considered to be a work of fiction.' This is interesting as I believe some of the drama in the story has been exaggerated to build the character's personality. For example, when the Pashtun stole his chewing gum, the drama could have been exaggerated to show how brave and naive Enaidat can be. → Think Hard How is this reflected in the narration being told in the present, by an adult? Why might this cause difficulty in creating authenticity?

Monday 17th September 2018
Themes in Crocodiles - my view