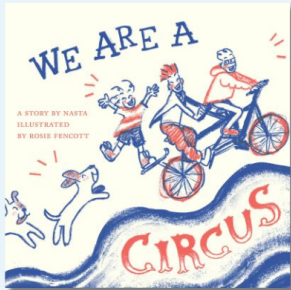


We Are A Circus

Nasta
Illustrated by Rosie
Fencott

BOOK TALK CARDS



ABOUT THE BOOK

A tale of a rainbow family, riding a bicycle around Thessaloniki when they are evicted from their home by their landlord.



FURTHER DISCUSSION

Think about the concept of 'home' throughout the book. Why do the family have to leave their house? Or consider the quote *'at home with one another'* – what does 'home' mean in this sentence? What does home mean to your pupils?

YEAR
6

THEMES:

- Tolerance
- Positivity
- Hope
- Difference
- Compassion

TIME TO TALK

- 'We are a circus'* – what do you think the author means by this phrase? How are the family united?
'But we have stars in our eyes. We don't see those people.' Discuss the positives and the negatives of this statement.
- Consider the style of illustration – how does it add to the themes of the story?
- "Animals would never do this"*. What does this line suggest about the ways we control animals, and the way the natural world behaves?
- Consider the use of the terms fortunately/happiness and unfortunately/unhappiness: do you agree that these words can be paired up? Can you give any examples when you would use one of these words to describe a time in your life?
- What does *'happy-go-lucky'* mean to you? Would you consider yourself to have this quality? When would it be useful, when less so?
- 'People often look at us and laugh. People sometimes look and whisper.'*
- There are some very small things in the book that lead to both positives and negatives for the characters, e.g. enjoying stepping on street tiles in the rain, getting sick from wet socks, a friend offering a hug and a hot water bottle. Can you describe any small things that you have done for someone, or they have done for you, which have made a big difference? Can you think of a time when something which seems small has had a big impact negatively?
- 'We don't feel blue. We prefer rainbows.'* This is a positive statement when the family are having to leave. Can you think of a time when you have found it hard to be positive? What helps to find the 'fortunatelies' in difficult times?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

