

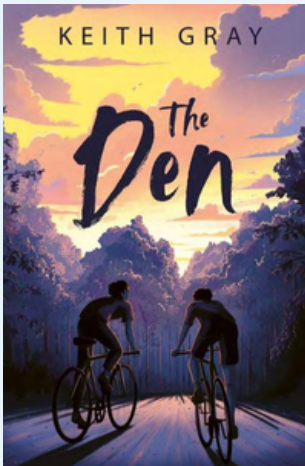
The Den

Keith Gray

BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



ABOUT THE BOOK

When two teens find a refuge in the ruins of an old bomb shelter, a place for fun but also a respite from a tense home life, their friendship is tested after a betrayal of trust.



OUR THOUGHTS

"A quick, pacy and gritty story full of raw emotions, and the book production is also dyslexia-friendly. This is a perfect read for boys who are reluctant readers."

KS3

THEMES:

- Betrayal
- Friendship
- Relationships
- Rivalry
- Independence

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Marshall seeks escapism. Why do you think this is? What does this phrase mean to you?
- 2 Is there anything that you try to escape? How do you achieve this?
- 3 How do the characters of Marshall and Rory differ? Do you relate to one more than another?
- 4 Do the events in the story reflect any of your summer holiday events? Would you like to share any adventures?
- 5 Can you think of another 'world's most amazing secret'? What can be good or bad about a sharing a secret?
- 6 *'You will always be thinking about it for ever if you don't, right?' p.19.* Can you think of other scenarios in life this applies to? Does this knowledge make it easier to make the decision?
- 7 Consider the resolution – do you think it is satisfying or likely given the events?
- 8 Can you suggest an alternative ending?

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



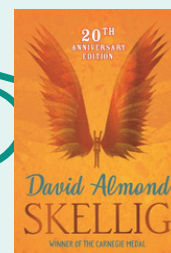
The Runner
by Keith Gray



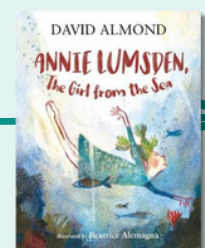
Ostrich Boys
by Keith Gray



Nowhere Island
by Tania Unsworth



Skellig by David Almond



Annie Lumsden, The Girl From The Sea
by David Almond and Beatrice Alemagna (illustrator)