

THERE ARE THINGS I KNOW

BY KAREN B. GOLIGHTLY

- Pepper, as an autistic child, uses numbers to help him make sense of the world. Find a few examples in the text where this applies. What different techniques can you spot? What does this do to the narrative style?
- Can you think of any books that have a similar theme/main character to 'There Are Things I Know'? Are there any similarities/differences between these books?
- How does Uncle Dan justify his actions? Is he just a plain villain or does he have some redeeming qualities?
- 'There Are Things I Know' is ultimately also the story of a crime. How much is the crime genre pertinent to this novella? Or is this mainly a survival story? Support your idea with some examples.
- The novella is told in first person. How would it differ if it was written in third person? Would it have the same effect?
- On page 140 Uncle Dan shows Pepper his 'hideout'. Does the reader start feeling like there is no hope left for Pepper at that point? How does Pepper ultimately manage to escape?
- Pepper finds it hard to interact with people yet during the course of the novella he finds himself in contact with many different characters. Choose one of these relationships and explore the way Pepper interacts with them.
- The author makes the reader see the story through Pepper's eyes giving us an insight into his thought process. How much empathy does the reader come to feel for Pepper?