

THERE ARE THINGS I KNOW

BY KAREN B. GOLIGHTLY

QUESTIONS

- The title of this book is a positive affirmation of a young, autistic boy's ability to rescue himself, because of the things he knows. How does the author use the provision or withholding of information from the reader and from the characters to create narrative tension throughout the book?
- Discuss the use of first person narrative in this book. If it had been written in the third person, what difference do you think that would have made?
- As a reader, what are your feelings towards Uncle Dan? If you empathise with him, why do you think that is and what has the author done to create this feeling?
- Who do you think would enjoy reading this book? Do you think it was written with a particular target audience in mind?
- Discuss the language used within the prose. How does the author create a convincing child's narrative and yet prevent the book from reading like children's fiction?
- What techniques does the author use to keep the reader wanting to turn the next page?
- Were you happy with the way that the story ended? Would you have ended in the same way or a different way?

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WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write a chapter of 1,000 words told from the point of view of a child.

OR

B) Take a few chapters of your own writing and examine what information you give or withhold from the reader and the characters. Draw up a list of things you could change which might increase the narrative tension across those chapters.

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