

So Much to Tell You

For each group of questions:

- (a) **SYMBOLS:** Start by drawing 3 symbols or simple drawings in response to each group of questions. Draw them on the page itself, next to the questions.
- (b) **WORDS:** Write down between 5 and 10 words that might be necessary to help you respond to this group of questions.
- (c) **SENTENCE:** Select the question that you can most easily answer. Write 1-2 sentences in response.
- (d) **YOU:** How does this topic relate to your own life? Write 1-2 sentences.
- (e) **SPEAK:** Contribute a word, phrase, idea, experience or written sentence to the class, drawn from your answers to (a), (b) and (c).
- (f) **GROUP/PAIR:** Concept map this topic. Use all the ideas, symbols, sentences and ideas that emerge from our discussion.

1 Pain - scars

Marina considers Lisa 'not a very happy person, yet no-one else is aware of that' (p. 11).

Why is Marina so perceptive?

Do you have to feel pain to recognise another's pain?

How do Marina's scars help her?
How do they hold her back?

Can you have hidden scars?

Are they better or worse than scars you can see?

2 Who am I?

'So am I my face? I mean is that *all* I am?' Marina felt she had changed. 'I'm not the person I was before' (p. 75).

In what way do you identify with your face?

In what way do you identify with your name?

What part of you is most you?

Has the 'person that Marina once was' gone forever?

Suppose Marina's scars were removed by plastic surgery. Would Marina be the 'old' Marina again?

How would you feel about who you were if your face changed?

3 Masks

'But there was no reading those skilful masks' (p. 53).

What does a mask do, and why do people use them?

What makes a mask skilful?

What would happen if you let your mask drop?

If you wear a mask for too long, what happens?

Can you wear a mask forever?

What would it take to remove your mask?

Do you mask your true feelings in different ways with different people?

4 Bars

'I drew lots of stripes, which weren't stripes at all, but were bars, prison bars' (p. 80).

What sorts of situations can you think of that would feel like being behind bars?

Are bars the same as masks?
How are they the same?
How are they different?

Would a mask hide the bars?

Would the bars stop you removing the mask?

If you do not hide behind a mask or a smile, and you are not behind bars, how do you hide your true feelings when you feel the need?

5 Loneliness

Marina is thinking about the English exercise in which they had to write down their feelings. 'I was so surprised – most of them were about loneliness' (p. 53).

Were these girls lonely because they were in boarding school?

How would you cope with boarding school?

Do you think a lot of people are lonely?

Is lack of friendship the only thing that can make you lonely?

Can you be lonely when you are surrounded by lots of people?