Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapter 11 & 12 Questions

Worksheet A

1. On page 186, Mike is frustrated that, after two months, his vision still isn’t getting better. He says, “after a while you want to think that all the work is getting you somewhere. I mean, that’s human nature, right?”. Do you think Mike should be frustrated? After your stroke, were there times that you became frustrated because you didn’t see any improvement, or as much improvement as you would have liked? If so, what were you frustrated about? Do you still get frustrated?

2. On page 189, Mike doesn’t understand why his eye is good enough to drive and he looks sharp, but he can’t see the eye chart from twenty feet away nor can he see details. He says, “Start connecting, for God’s sake! Start connecting!” It has been mentioned in the group that sometimes you get frustrated because you know what you want to say, but you cannot say it. In a way, your brain and speech aren’t “connecting”. Although different, do you think you can relate to Mike? Are there other areas or skills you wish would “start connecting”? If so, what?

3. When Mike sees something, and doesn’t know what it is, he relies on clues to help him. These include: touch, color, context and exception, and other senses (page 204). What do you think about Mike’s lists of clues to help him figure out what something is? Are there any clues or strategies you use that help you come up with words that you’re struggling with during conversation? If so, what are they?

4. Although Mike has been struggling with his vision and thinking it was “getting more overwhelming rather than less” (page 211), he is telling everyone that he’s fine. He also keeps telling himself that he’s Mike May, and he’ll find a way. Do you think Mike will “find a way”? If so, how? How do you feel about Mike telling everyone that he’s fine even though he’s not?