Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapter 14 & 15 Questions

Worksheet A

1. On page 238, it’s written that “One can image that it must feel overwhelming to the infant, this overflow of visual information he cannot even begin to sort”. This is also how Mike must have felt when he regained his vision. After your stroke, did you feel a similar way; overwhelmed? If so, how did you deal with being overwhelmed?

2. On page 256, it is written that neural plasticity is “a neuron’s ability to change its representation”. In Mike’s case, the vision neurons that process faces, depth, and objects may have gone on to represent something else. Do you think these neurons changed their representation? Or, do you think they can be re-networked to help Mike process faces, depth, and objects? Plasticity also happens after a stroke. What were you told about this?

3. On page 263, Mike says, “I think exploration is everything. I think that’s why I never grew up feeling like I couldn’t see”. Do you agree with Mike that exploration is crucial? How did Mike ‘explore’ while he was blind? Are there any ways you ‘explore’ the world, that help with your aphasia?

4. On page 265, Mike finds out that he doesn’t “possess the neural structure necessary for normal vision”. Afterwards, Mike wonders in the scientists made a mistake, and seems very upset. Mike has maintained so strong during the whole process. Why do you think this news is different to him? How do you think this will affect him going forward?