Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapter 16, 17, & Epilogue Questions

Worksheet A

1.On page 271, Mike decided to “try to see by being blind again”. He would use the senses he used when he was blind and then have his vision fill in the rest. What do you think of this ‘strategy’? He seems to be compensating for poor vision by using skills he knows he’s good at. Do you use any skills or strategies to help compensate with your aphasia, such as when coming up with a word? If so, what are these strategies?

2. On page 279, Mike gets the news that his body is rejecting his cornea. He had finally “found a way” to overcome his poor vision, and now he receives this news. How do you feel about this news? Have you ever experienced something similar to this situation; you received bad news after you had finally overcome something? How did you respond?

3.On page 292, Mike says that he didn’t have the transplant surgery to see, he “did it to see what seeing was”. What do you think is the difference between the two? Do you think this goes along with how Mike has lived his whole life; wanting to experience everything in life and doing it with everything he has?

4.On page 299, Mike found out he had skin cancer, but the doctor was able to remove the spot. Although Mike said he wouldn’t do anything differently, he did wonder if the cancer was caused by the cyclosporine. After reading, do you think it was still the right decision for Mike to have the transplant surgery? How do you think his life would have been different if he didn’t have the surgery? Ultimately, his decision to have the transplant was worth it for him. Has there ever been a decision you made that, despite the risks, it paid off and was worth it in the end?