Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapters 3 & 4 Questions

Worksheet A

1. On page 42, Mike mentions to Jennifer that he has been looking into the stem cell surgery. He says, “The stem cell surgery is really interesting. I’d like to know more about it. I still don’t think it would change my life, but I have to say, it seems like it’s for real.” Do you believe Mike when he says, “I still don’t think it would change my life”? Or, do you think he think he doesn’t want to get his hopes up? Do you think it would change his life? How?
2. On pages 50-51, Dr. Goodman describes the risks related to the stem cell transplant surgery. They are: chances of success are fifty-fifty, the stem cells and cornea could reject at any time in Mike’s life, the extent of sight restoration is unknown, a failed surgery could cost Mike his light perception, and a possible side effect is cancer. Do you think the surgery is worth it? Would you take this chance? Have you ever faced a big decision where there were high risks involved, and what did you do?
3. On pages 56-57, Mike’s answer for how he could be so confident as a blind person centered around four main points “1) Have adventures 2) Speak to your curiosity 3) Be willing to fall down or get lost and 4) There’s always a way”. Do you agree with his ‘life lessons’? Do you think his advice can speak to everybody? What would be your advice or ‘life lesson’ you would give somebody?
4. On page 65, it describes how Mike and his ski guide, Ron Salviolo, won three gold medals at the World Winter Game (now known as the Paralympics) using a different strategy than their competitors. What was this strategy? Do you think you would be able to do what Mike did? If you could, what sport would you want to compete in?