Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapter 6 Questions

Worksheet A

1. On page 97, it mentions Mike and Jennifer’s first date when they went horseback riding.  Mike could hear that Jennifer didn’t slow down to make their ride safer and “that sound meant everything to him, the sound of a person who lived in a world of impressions having the impression that he could do anything”. How important do you think Jennifer’s belief in Mike is/was for their relationship?  Would you have been cautious if you were Jennifer, or dating someone who was blind?  Do you ever think your significant others or loved ones have ever been cautious or censored something because of your aphasia?  If so, how?

2. On page 103, Mike starts training for a new type of skiing: speed skiing.  There had been no blind competitors for this sport, and Mike was worried as he began training.  Why was Mike worried about speed skating?  Do you think Mike was right to be worried?  Has there ever been anything you have tried doing that could have been dangerous, but you tried anyway?  Is there anything you would be hesitant to try because of your aphasia? If so, what?

3. On page 112, Mike gives up “an unlimited travel budget, the backing of an established company, and the security of a regular paycheck”.  Why does he give all this up?  If you were in Mike’s situation, what would it take for you to give it all up?  Have you ever experienced a situation where you gave up things for the unknown, in hopes of success?

4. Mike had been involved in three entrepreneurship businesses, including Finial Technology (pages 93-94, 102), Maytek Sports (page 105-107), and Custom Eyes (page 107).  Finial Technology and Maytek Sports were unsuccessful and he left Custom Eyes to work for another company, and now he wants to start his own GPS company.  Do you think it’s a smart idea for Mike to start his own business?  Why or why not?  Mike’s new business is aimed at helping individuals who are blind.  Can you brainstorm any new technologies or tools that could help people with aphasia?