Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapter 9 Questions

Worksheet A

1. Mike finally gets to see his mother, Ori Jean, for the first time since he was three. He says, “Thank you for being here”, and “Thank you for everything, Mom” (page 143 and 144). How important do you think this moment was for both Mike and his mother? Why do you think this moment was so special for both of them? Is there anyone that you would like to specifically thank for anything they’ve done for you since you had your stroke? What would you say?

2. On page 149, Mike’s sons want to know if their father can read. They bring him a cereal box and Mike tries to read it. It’s helpful to him to trace the letters, since touch is how he learned them when he was blind. Unfortunately, “by the time he’d come to the last letter, Y, he could not remember the first three, forcing him to start again”. Most of you have also expressed the same kind of frustration with reading, and having to reread, with your aphasia. Do you feel like you relate to Mike in some ways? What other ways do you think you relate to Mike?

3. On page 152, Mike and his family return home to dinner made by Ori Jean. Mike “was greeted by the smell of Ori Jean’s special meat loaf, and it comforted him because he knew automatically, in his heart, what it was”. Why do you think Mike was “comforted”? Even with regaining his vision, do you think he is still somewhat dependent on the senses he used while he was blind? Are there any senses, tools, instruments, or techniques you are “comforted” by, because you also had depended on them before you had aphasia?

4. Mike is finally able to see the red hat his dad had given him for a hunting trip they went on together (page 166). Now that he can see the hat and Wyndham wearing it, “it seemed for a moment like he could see himself, too”. What do you think he means by this? How difficult do you think it must be for Mike to lose his father so soon before regaining his vision, especially having so much to say to him? Is there anyone you wish you had more time with, and what would you say to them?