Aphasia Book Club

Crashing Through

Chapter 9 Questions

Worksheet B

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?

Not really important Very important

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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?

No, I don’t relate to him at all Yes, I relate to him

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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”?

1. He loves meatloaf
2. He was able to use his sense of smell, which he had depended on when he did not have his sense of sight
3. His mother comforts him
4. Meatloaf is a family favorite

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?

Not difficult at all Really difficult

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10