



My Sister lives on the Mantelpiece- Annabel Pitcher: Knowledge Organiser



Key Vocabulary	
Naïve	Someone who lacks experience, knowledge or wisdom.
Islamophobia	The fear, hatred and hostility towards Islam and Muslims.
Prejudice	Having an opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
Empathy	Being able to understand and share the feelings of someone else.
Sympathy	Being able to express feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else due to your own experience.
Terrorism	The use of fear and acts of violence in order to intimidate societies or governments.
Stereotype	A mistaken idea or belief that many people have about a group or type of person which may be untrue or only partly true.
Injustice	A situation where there is a lack of fairness
Abandoned	Being left alone or deserted.
Forgiveness	The action or process of accepting someone's apology.
Revenge	Hurting or harming someone as punishment for hurting you or someone else.
Tension	A feeling of nervousness, excitement or fear that is created in a story.
Connotations	An idea or feeling that is associated with a particular word. Eg. Red= love
Protagonist	The main character
Antagonist	The character in the story that is in conflict with the protagonist.
Guilt	A feeling of worry or unhappiness you experience when you feel you have done something wrong.

Context- real events that inspire the story	
The book was published in 2011.	
Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/11- terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York that killed 2977 people. 7/7- bombings that took place on public transport in London killing 52 people and injuring 700. 22/6- Manchester Arena attack where an explosion killed 23 people and injured 139. London Bridge attacks- In 2017 terrorists drove a van into people in London killing 8 and in 2019 a man attacked 5 people on London Bridge.
PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder)	It is a mental health condition that is triggered by a shocking or terrifying event- either experiencing it or witnessing. This can lead to flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety.

Plot Summary
Jamie, his sister Jas and their Dad move to the country from London after Jamie's mother has an affair and leaves. Sitting on the Mantelpiece in their new home is the ashes of Rose, Jas's twin sister, who was killed on September 9 in the London Bombings, five years earlier. Jas has been deeply troubled by the death of her sister, yet it doesn't bother Jamie since he was too young to really know Rose. At his new school, Jamie befriends Sunya, who is a Muslim. Jamie knows his father wouldn't approve of their friendship, as he hates Muslims and blames Rose's death on the entire Muslim population.

Characters	
Jamie	He is ten years old and he is the narrator of the story. He is a typical ten year old who enjoys football (especially Wayne Rooney) and superheroes.
Jas	She is Jamie's older sister who is fifteen. She looks after Jamie like a mother.
Dad	He used to work in construction but has struggled to stop drinking.
Mum	She used to be a teacher. She moves away with Nigel after an affair.
Leo	He is Jas's punk boyfriend with green hair.
Nigel	Nigel is Mum's boyfriend who she met at a support group after he lost his wife.
Sunya	A ten year old Muslim girl in Jamie's class at school.

Literary devices		
Repetition	Repeated words or ideas	'No birthday present from Mum. No card.'
Imagery	Creating a mental picture for the reader through appealing to the senses (smell, touch, taste, see, hear).	'I felt all light and fizzy, lemonade in my veins, and my thoughts popped and bubbled in my brain.'
Pathetic Fallacy	When nature reflects human emotion (we often see this in the weather)	'all the green has turned to brown and purple, as if the hills have got bruises. I like the world this way'
Italicised speech	Speech in the novel is in italics and is used frequently. It is reported speech meaning that is it as Jamie remembers it.	'I can say what I want in my own country Dad replied'
Simile	Comparing one thing to another using like or as	'the moon was fat. It looked like a saucer of milk'
Metaphor	Describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison	'Straight shiny hair that fell all the way down to her shoulders in a black silk curtain'

Themes- an idea that runs through the story				
Grief	It is defined as a feeling of intense sadness that comes after someone's death. This idea is explored a lot through the novel as we see how each of the characters deals with the loss of Rose. Rose was only 10 when she died and so we see the shock of the circumstances. Jas rebels against her parents, Dad takes to drinking and Mum has an affair. Through this, Jamie doesn't understand why they act in this way as he hasn't felt the sense of grief for his sister. However, when something happens to Roger, Jamie finally understands what it means to grieve.			
Tolerance	Tolerance is being respectful of other people's lives, beliefs and practices. In the novel, we see a lot of Islamophobia where Dad believes that all Muslims are terrorists and this view becomes embedded in Jamie's beliefs. However, as Jamie becomes friendly with Sunya, we see that his opinions begin to change and he realises that everyone should be treated fairly. Although Sunya believes differently to Jamie, she should not be treated any differently.			
Identity	Identity is the characteristics and interests that make everyone individual. In the novel, Jamie learns about his identity. He realises that the death of Rose and the events that happen afterwards are what make him unique. In addition, he learns about Sunya's identity by seeing that although there are similarities between them, the differences are what make each of them special.			
Conflict	Conflict in the novel is both internal and external			
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>External</th> <th>Internal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>There is conflict between Mum and Dad which results in Mum leaving. When in the country, there is also conflict between Dad and Jas as Dad doesn't agree with Jas having a boyfriend. Jamie experiences conflict in his on-going issues with Daniel. There is also conflict at parents evening between Dad and Sunya's Mum.</td> <td>Jamie is conflicted in how he should handle his relationship with Sunya because he wants to be friends with her but he knows his Dad won't like it.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	External	Internal	There is conflict between Mum and Dad which results in Mum leaving. When in the country, there is also conflict between Dad and Jas as Dad doesn't agree with Jas having a boyfriend. Jamie experiences conflict in his on-going issues with Daniel. There is also conflict at parents evening between Dad and Sunya's Mum.
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Hope	Much of the hoping within the novel comes from Jamie's age. He doesn't understand everything that is going on in his life so he often hopes for things to be better or different. We see that 'wishing' occurs on a number of occasions in the novel also. Jamie hopes that his mother will come back, that life will return to normal and that he can continue to be friends with Sunya. The theme of hope can also be seen a message to the reader from the author to suggest that life after tragic events might not be the same but it can get better.			



Symbols		
Symbolism: the use of objects to represent ideas or qualities.	Letters Letters are a recurring symbol throughout the novel as it symbolises the constant hope that Jamie has in his mother returning. He is either waiting for a letter or he is sending one and these signify the most important points in his life.	Angels and clouds Jamie mentions the class reward system often within the book. Mrs Farmer has an angel to represent all of the children and they move up through the clouds depending on how well behaved they are. However, we can see that the rewards chart symbolises the constant memory of Rose for Jamie. Even at school, he cannot escape the memories of his sister.
Country vs City The country is a positive symbol as it symbolises an escape and a new life for Jamie and his family. It also symbolises hope. On the other hand, the city is a negative symbol as it symbolises a past life and a time of trauma. Jamie wants to forget the life that he had in the city and the upset that he experienced there.	Blue tack rings The rings symbolises the relationship between Sunya and Jamie and the fact that although they may have different beliefs they are brought together in their friendship and love of superheroes. In the beginning Jamie doesn't want the ring but he then realises he wants to be friends with Sunya and accepts the ring in turn accepting Sunya.	A Spiderman T-Shirt Jamie believes that the T-Shirt is a symbol of the love of his Mum and so he continues to wear it every day in the hope that his Mum will come back for him. However, by the end of the novel, the T-Shirt becomes a symbol of Jamie's abandonment and he feels like he has outgrown it. He realises that things cannot go back to how they were.

Structure										
Narrative perspective	This is the viewpoint that the story has been told from. In the novel, it is told from Jamie's perspective meaning it is in first person (uses I, my and we)									
Narrative voice	The way that the narrator speaks or presents the reader with information. Jamie has quite an informal and childish narrative voice									
Stream of consciousness	This is a method of narrating that describes the events as the narrator thinks of them. We see this with Jamie because he tells us what happens and his thoughts about it.									
Foreshadowing	To give a suggestion of what might happen later in the story. For example, Jamie mentions that the date September 9 th is important but we don't know why at first.									
Simple sentences	Sentences which have one subject and one verb. They are used often throughout the story as they show that Jamie is only a child and it appears simple and lacks sophistication.									
Exclamatives	A word or sentence used to show surprise or shock and punctuated with an exclamation mark.									
Story structure	Exposition →									
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