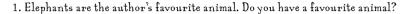
## The Elephant in the Room

## HOLLY GOLDBERG SLOAN

## Discussion Notes for KS2



- 2. In the book there is lots of information about caring for animals. Can you list some examples of how to care for an elephant?
- 3. Have you ever cared for an animal? What did that feel like?
- 4. Mr. Pickles, the bear, is a handful for Gio when he brings him home. Can you create your own funny animal character? What might they do in your house?
- 5. We are told the story from many different perspectives. How does this make the book more interesting? Did you enjoy reading any of the characters more than others?
- 6. The characters in this book have good luck and bad luck. What is an example of something lucky that happened in the story? And something unlucky?
- 7. This book is also about families. Sometimes we make friends who are so close, they can feel like family. Has that ever happened to you?
- 8. Gio and Sila have a lot in common. How has the author shown this in the book? Can you list some examples?
- 9. When Gio meets Sila he thinks she seems sad. Why do you think he might have noticed this?
- 10. Can you think of some examples of how we can notice if someone we know is sad? How might we help them if they are?
- 11. When Sila first meets Mateo, they sit together in silence. What are the big things which happen to change this relationship and help them to become friends?



- 12. What do we learn about Mateo and his personality?
- 13. How does Mateo help Sila and Veda?
- 14. One of the things that this book is about is separation. Can you think of a time when you were separated from someone? How did that feel?
- 15. At the start of the book, Sila's mother Oya is in Turkey and can't return because of her immigration papers. How do you think this might be making Sila feel?
- 16. There are lots of examples in the book of things that are different now that Sila's mother is away. Can you find some of them?
- 17. How does Sila's relationship with her father Alp change when her mother is away?
- 18. How would you feel if you weren't able to see someone you love for a very very long time? What would be different?
- 19. Veda and her mother Madhi are separated for many years. How do you think they would feel being separated for so long and how would they feel being reunited?
- 20. At the end of the book Veda and Sila are both reunited with their mothers. How did this make you feel?

