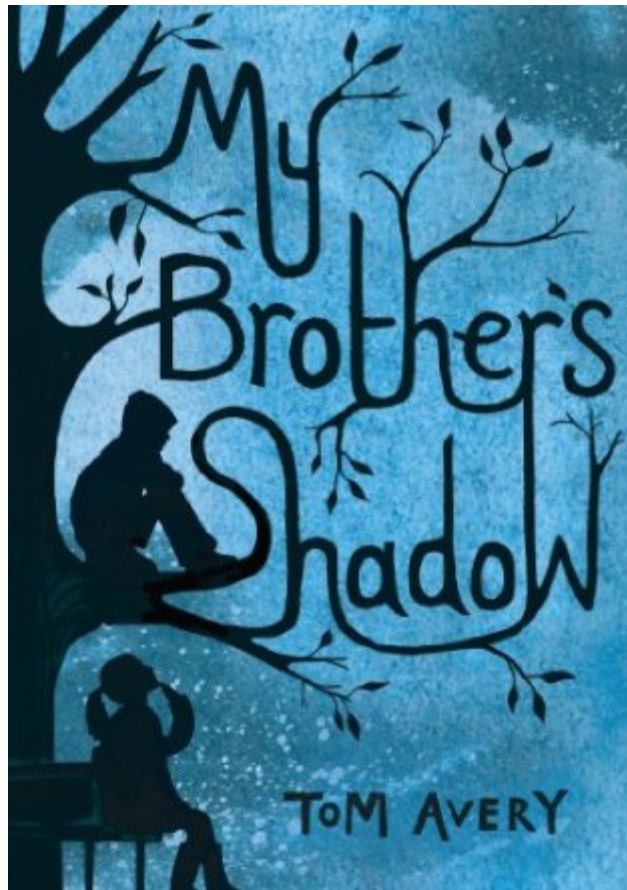




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My Brother's Shadow
READING GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



My Brother's Shadow by Tom Avery

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ABOUT THE BOOK

My name is Kaia.

I'm frozen because of what happened.

I'm trapped because of what I saw.

Can someone help me to grow again?

Kaia is frozen when her brother dies, but can an unexpected friend help her to grow again?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Avery writes by a large window with a Norway Maple (*Acer Platanoides*) outside. When he is not writing, he works in the school that the boy first appeared in. Tom and his wife live at the top of the hill, which Kaia cycled up and back down. He takes his two sons to the many parks near their house, which his boys have named – Round Park is called Round Park because it has a fast round-a-bout. Even though he writes about them, Tom has never seen an angel.

SOME DISCUSSION POINTS AND QUESTIONS

- What are your first impressions of The Boy? How did you expect him to behave as the book went on?
- Kaia describes herself as frozen at the start of the book. In what ways is this true?
- How do the changing seasons throughout the book, from winter through spring to summer, contribute to Kaia's story?
- The class don't know how to act around Kaia. Poppy and her friends call her 'freak'. Why do you think Poppy acts like this? Does Poppy and Kaia's 'moment' at the water fountain explain anything?
 - Kaia makes up the Rules for Life as her brother would have. Did you have a favourite? How did they help you understand the story? Why do you think they are illustrated with trees?
- My Brother's Shadow is Kaia's story. In what ways would the story change if it was told from Kaia's mum's point of view?