



READING GUIDE

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Frank and Red

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Synopsis

Frank and Red are a mess.

Frank is a grumpy old curmudgeon. A recluse whose only company is the 'ghost' of his dead wife, Marcie. He is estranged from his friends, his son, and the ever-changing world beyond his front gate. And then Red moves in next door.

Red is six. A boy struggling to adjust to the separation of his mum and dad, a new school, and the demonic school bully. Red is curious, smart, he never stops talking, and he's got a trampoline. From the moment Red's blonde mop appears over the top of the fence that divides their two gardens, the unlikelyst of friendships is born.



Discussion points

1. How do you perceive the relationship between Frank and Red? What do you think each character learns from the other throughout the story?
2. Frank is dealing with the loss of his wife, Marcie. How does the author portray his grief, and how does it affect his interactions with others, especially Red?
3. Discuss how Red's perspective as a six-year-old shapes the narrative. In what ways does his innocence contrast with Frank's experiences?
4. How did you feel about the ending of the book?

Next, you should listen to...

The Trials Of Marjorie Crowe by C.S. Robertson

Way Back by Sara Cox

Irresponsible Adult by Lucy Dillon