



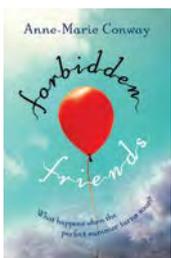
Forbidden Friends – Book Club Questions and Activities

- Lizzie’s brother, Luke, died when she was only three years old. When they arrive in Spain, Lizzie says that sometimes she feels as if *she’s* the one who died. What do you think she means by this? Do you think she feels differently by the end of the book?
- The image of the red balloon runs right from the front cover all the way through to the end of the book. What do you think the balloon symbolises? Do you think it might mean different things to different characters in the story?
- In Bee’s poem, *Being Me*, Bee describes what it’s like to be bullied. Have you ever experienced bullying at school? Did you tell someone or did you keep it bottled up inside like Bee? Lizzie is also being bullied by her dad. Do you think this is one of the reasons the two girls become so close?
- When Bee and Lizzie confront Bee’s dad, he tries to explain why he lied about the accident. Do you think he was right to lie? Do you understand his reasons? What do you think would’ve happened if he’d told the truth right from the start?
- Towards the end of the book, Aidan says he can’t believe how much Bee has grown up. What do you think he means by this? How do you think she changes during the course of the story?

Activities

- Why don’t you have a go at story-boarding a book trailer for **Forbidden Friends**? You would need to pick out key moments in the story; the friendship rock, the caves, the memorial ceremony for Luke, swapping the suitcases – and then when you’ve finished you could try adding music to the images to really bring them to life.
- Imagine that Bee has decided to confront Melissa Knight. What do you think she would say? How do you think Melissa would react? When you’ve had a go, swap roles and try again.
- Bee decides to write her holiday-project poems on “friendship”. Can you write a poem about your best friend? Maybe you could write a poem together?

Book club questions and activities by Anne-Marie Conway



Read the first chapter of **Forbidden Friends** online now at www.usborne.com/forbiddenfriends