



A Kind of Spark

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. The main character in *A Kind of Spark* is autistic. Autism is considered a neurodivergence, meaning a difference in the brain. 1 in every 36 children is on the spectrum of autism. What do you know about autism? Do a little research at a site such as <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism> and see what information you can find out.
2. This book is set in Scotland. Have you ever read a book set in Scotland before? Did you like it?
3. Do you like the cover of the book? Why or why not? What would you change about it without reading the book? With a teacher's help, look up the other cover of this book. Do you like it better?

Post-reading questions

1. How do you think the title, *A Kind of Spark*, relates to the book? Why do you think the author chose that title?
2. What did you learn about autistic people through the eyes of Addie and Keedie? What are some challenges they faced because of the way autism affects their brains?
3. Discuss the differences in Addie's relationship with her sister Keedie versus her sister Nina. How did you see their relationships change throughout the book?
4. One of Addie's teachers is surprised that Addie is so upset about the stories of the witch trials since it was so long ago. Do you think he was right and Addie should not have been upset?
5. Why do you think that Addie related so much to the "witches" she was learning about? What characteristics do you think she saw in them that she could relate to?
6. Addie is so passionate about campaigning for the memorial because "They didn't sound dangerous at all to me. They sounded scared. Different and scared." (p. 74). Do you think she channeled her passion well? Would you have done anything differently?
7. Addie and Keedie both talk about "masking" to hide their differences. Keedie says "You should feel safe to be yourself all the time." (p. 81). What can you do at your school to make people who feel different feel like they can be themselves?
8. What did you think about the ending of the book? Did you like how it ended? Why or why not?

Post-reading activities

1. *A Kind of Spark* has been made into a TV show! With a parent's permission, you can watch it here: <https://www.byutv.org/a-kind-of-spark> What do you think of the choices for the characters? Do they match how you pictured the characters in your mind while reading?
2. Create a promotional book flyer for *A Kind of Spark*. Follow the guidelines at [tomesociety.org/competitions](https://www.tomesociety.org/competitions) and enter your final work into the It List Promo Flyer competition.
3. The United States also held witch trials, known as the Salem Witch Trials. With your teacher's guidance, do some research on this topic and share your findings.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <https://ellemnicoll.com/>

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/uploads/store/mediaupload/7418/file/A%20Kind%20of%20Spark%20learning%20activities.pdf>