

**OUT OF MY MIND**  
**THINKING QUESTIONS**

As you read/listen to\* the novel Out of My Mind, by Sharon M. Draper, think about the following questions:

**Chapters 1-3**

- Think about what it would be like to not be able to speak a single word. How would this affect your life?
- What are Melody's "tornado explosions" and why do they happen?

**Chapters 4 & 5**

- How does Melody describe her classmates in room H5?
- How is Melody similar to her classmates? How is she different from her classmates?

**Chapters 6 & 7**

- Think about Mrs. Valencia. What kind of impact do you think she will have on Melody?
- Melody says she would rather be able to talk than walk. Do you feel the same? Why or why not?
- After reading about the incident at the doctor's office and at school with Mrs. Billups, what kind of mother is Melody's mom? How does she see Melody and what Melody can do?

**Chapters 8 & 9**

- The cover of the novel is of Melody's goldfish Ollie. How are Melody's and Ollie's lives similar?
- If you were Melody, how would you feel about having a sibling? What are your hopes and fears?

**Chapters 10 & 11**

- Do you feel a connection to Melody? Have you ever had trouble expressing your thoughts and feelings? What was that experience like?
- Why is it important for the students in room H5 to attend inclusion classes?
- If you were a teacher, how would you react to Molly and Claire?

**Chapters 12-14**

- How will attending more mainstream classes like math, ELA, and history change Melody's experience in school? How will it change the experience for the other students in the mainstream classes?
- How can you explain Rose's behavior at the aquarium when she sees Claire and Molly? Were you surprised by how she acted? Why or why not?

**Chapters 15 & 16**

- What is Elvira?
- How will Elvira change Melody's life?

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\* You can listen to read-alongs of this book at [www.andover.edu/pals/2020PALS7](http://www.andover.edu/pals/2020PALS7)

### **Chapters 17 & 18**

- How important are Catherine and Mrs. V in Melody's life?

### **Chapters 19-21**

- Why are the students and Mr. Dimming surprised that Melody made the Whiz Kids Team?
- Is there a lesson for students and teachers in how we see people who are different?

### **Chapters 22-24**

- How could the students on the quiz team be more inclusive with Melody during practice after school?
- What was so different about Melody's interaction with Paul, the station manager at the television station? What can we learn from this?

### **Chapters 25 & 26**

- Why does Claire say she is good friends with Melody after the competition? What does this say about her?
- Think about the experience at the restaurant after the competition. Why were the students so uncomfortable around Melody? What do you think they were thinking? How do you think they were feeling?

### **Chapters 27 & 28**

- Are you surprised by the students' reactions to the story about Melody in the newspaper? Why weren't they happy for her?
- Do you think the students and Mr. Dimming intentionally left behind Melody? How can you explain their actions?

### **Chapters 29-31**

- Do you think the accident with Penny is Melody's fault? Why or why not?
- Why is Melody so scared about Penny's injuries? Why does she think about Jill, her classmate in H5?

### **Chapters 32 & 33**

- How do you think the quiz team students and Mr. Dimming feel when they see Melody after the competition?
- Do you agree with how Melody confronted the situation? Why or why not?

### **Post-Reading Questions**

- Why is this novel called Out of My Mind?
- What are some lessons readers can learn from this novel?