

Methods to understand:

1. Simile – “My insides are quivering like goats in a bombing raid”
2. Metaphor – “my insides turn to yoghurt”
3. Exaggeration - ‘For the millionth time since we set sail, I remind myself why we’re doing this”
4. Dramatic irony – “Even though this is just pretend”
5. Repetition – “Her arms are bare. Her legs are bare.”
6. Tripling - “girls playing soccer is completely, totally and absolutely against the law.’ (p4)

Main characters

The characters in *Boy Overboard* are strong, multi-dimensional and believable for the reader.

Jamal – narrator, eleven years old. He is brave, caring and resourceful.

Bibi – Jamal’s sister, nine years old. She is audacious and courageous.

Mum – She is determined, compassionate and has strong morals.

Dad – He is cunning, brave and caring.

Omar – Jamal’s friend, also a refugee. He is cunning, mischievous and bold.

Rashida – Jamal’s friend, also a refugee. She is more liberal, caring and optimistic

Structure: A chronological sequence of events narrated by the central character/ protagonist – Jamal.

Oasis Academy Immingham *Boy Overboard* Knowledge Organiser

Published in 2002

Key vocabulary:

Adjectives for Afghanistan: unstable; volatile; dangerous; perilous

Reader response: concerned; sympathetic; nervous; anxious; heart-broken; distraught; distressed

Negative emotion words: Petrified; nervous; apprehensive; chaotic

Positive emotion words: courageous; optimistic; hopeful; sanguine



Context

1. The capital city of Afghanistan is called Kabul.
2. The main religion in Afghanistan is Islam (99% of the population).
3. Followers of Islam are called **Muslims**. Muslims believe there is one true God called **Allah** (the Arabic word for God).
4. Afghanistan has experienced lots of war and violence. The country was invaded in 1979 by the Soviets (now Russians). In 1994, the Taliban – a political group who believe in an extreme (or fundamentalist) form of Islam – was founded to try and take control. In 1996 the Taliban took control of Kabul and made people follow a hard-line version of Islam. There was lots of death and violence. In 2001, the US attacked Kabul to remove the Taliban. The US were successful and a new government was formed. However, the Taliban started to reform and threaten the new government.
5. As a result of all the war, there around 6 million (6,000,000) Afghan refugees. A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
6. Afghanistan is also one of the poorest countries in the world. About 9 million (9,000,000) people live in extreme poverty.
7. Over 70% of adults cannot read and write and it is also estimated that at least 30% of children aged 5-14 are involved in child labour. This is when children are forced to work.
8. Women did not have the same rights as men – gender discrimination.

Why did Morris Gleitzman write this book?

“For weeks I’d been seeing small overcrowded boats on the TV news. Back then we didn’t know much about who was on those boats, and the government didn’t seem to want us to. Some governments called the people on the boats criminals and terrorists. I decided to tell a different kind of story. A sort of antidote to the nameless faceless fear one. I was lucky enough to meet a family who had come to Australia as refugees. I got to know them and they kindly read the first draft of *Boy Overboard* and helped me hugely with details of life in Afghanistan. I dedicated the book to them, and the friendship I have with them is one of the most precious things my writing career has given me.”

Themes

1. Survival

- What keeps people going?
- What effect does stress have on people and how do different personalities cope?

2. Conflict

- Between people in general
- Political and social conflict
- The history of conflict in Afghanistan

3. Friendship and relationships

- Importance of ancestry – knowing who and where you’ve come from, sense of family history and a place to belong
- Putting needs of others before your own
- Friendships formed in times of adversary

1 – The boys are playing soccer (Jamal, Aziz, Mussa, Jamal, Zoltan, Yusuf). Bibi arrives – causes a problem. She runs after the ball.	2 – The ball is stopped by tank. We discover that the tank is not abandoned and moves. Bibi throws stones at it.	3 – Jamal confronts the tank and gets back his ball.	4 – Bibi and Yusuf stop the mine going off. Jamal takes Bibi's place, but she comes back and hugs Jamal – they fall off, but the mine doesn't explode.	5 – Bibi, Yusuf and Jamal head home. Jamal breaks a window. Saved by Jamal's dad who is a taxi driver. Yusuf goes home to grandfather.	6 – Jamal's parents reveal that they have to flee – the school they ran for girls has been discovered.
7 Mum says the candlestick will keep them safe. They bury school things, pack to go.	8 – At Yusuf's – Yusuf's grandad explains what overboard means when Jamal is watching English soccer on his illegal TV. Jamal has a plan to be a soccer player for Afghanistan.	9 – Jamal practises soccer at night in the street. Bibi turns up and hits the ball into their house which explodes – dad appears.	10 – Dad takes them back to Yusuf's grandad's cellar. He says Mum will meet them in the city. Jamal and Bibi leave with Dad in his taxi.	11 – Dad drops Bibi and Jamal at a shop and goes on alone to soccer stadium – leaves Jamal thinks it's about him and soccer and decides they should go.	12 – Bibi and Jamal go to the stadium. They see Mum tied up and finally Jamal realises she's been arrested for being a teacher and will be shot – but Dad rescues her in his taxi. Bibi and Jamal hurry back to the shop.
13 Back at shop candle burning, but no parents – but they do turn up. Disguise taxi – will get across city and then sell. Jamal wants he and Bibi to be soccer stars that can form a new government.	14 – Jumps in action The family are in a truck hidden – on the way out of Afghanistan. Parents say they are going to Australia to start a new life.	15 – They are in a refugee camp. Boy tries to get Jamal to buy water. Jamal kicks the ball to him – he steals it. Jamal gets it back but is in different part of camp- with starving sick. Meets Australian – excited by what Gav says, but realises lost.	16 – The boy returns and starts to take Jamal back. They see UN officials –but they leave. Jamal returns to tent, but is terrified to see uniformed officials there.	17 – Jamal thinks they are Afghan government spies. In fact Dad giving police money to get them to Australia. Mum sad.	18 – At the airport. They get on to the plane that will take them to the boat. Jamal realises that smugglers not the UN are transporting them and that his mum sold the candlestick for money to get there.
19 – The plane takes off.	20 – They're at the dock after being kept in a hot stuffy house. Bibi and Jamal practise soccer whilst waiting. Boy from camp tries to get ball – ends up over fence.	21 – Gates open to get on boat. Try to get to parents, but Bibi goes to get ball. The boy from camp helps and slips into water. Try to get stick from sailor who throws Bibi in after she bites his leg.	22 – Jamal jumps in. Sailor gets them out. Their parents are on another boat which leaves.	23 – Jamal restrains Bibi. The smuggler can't contact the other boat. The boy from the camp is there too – Omar – with the ball.	24 – They save a teenage girl whose blanket caught fire. She is different – make up, shorts, T shirt.
25 - Girl is Rashida. Gives food to them and Omar. They practise ball skills. Jamal notices she has flour	26 - Jamal cooks bread on the engine – water coming into the boat.	27 - People enjoy Jamal's bread. Waves are bigger.	28 - Smugglers demand more money to carry on. Rashida gives a watch for the four of them.	29 They've been travelling for six days. It is Bibi's birthday. We learn that Rashida was born in Australia – they went back to Afghanistan and then couldn't get back to Australia.	30 – Pirates arrive to whom the smugglers belong. Pirates take a girl. Rashida and Bibi are disguised and do soccer skills. Jamal beats a pirate at soccer and is badly kicked in the hip. Pirates go with smugglers. Only people and 3 sailors.
31 – Jamal is woken from a soccer dream by Bibi screaming as huge waves crash on them.	32 – Bibi and Jamal are scooping water out of the boat – tough like bakers.	33 – Australian gun ship arrives.	34 – In the cabin of the ship. Andrew looking after them – Bibi better. Omar turns up. Still no sign of parents.	35 – They are taken to what Jamal thinks is Australia. Omar, Jamal, Bibi and Rashida insist on staying together.	36 – Playing soccer. Refugees versus Aussies. Then they hear Jamal's parents' boat sank.
37 – Jamal finds out he is not in Australia.	38 – Jamal is heartbroken – his soccer ball is punctured and parents gone. Rashida says she will be there for him and Bibi.	39 – Omar admits he's an orphan. His ancestors were thieves. Jamal sees himself as a combination of his ancestors – bakers and desert warriors.	40 – Jamal is woken by Bibi – Mum and Dad survived after all. The family is reunited.	41 – Jamal tells his parents they are really on an island and that he and Bibi plan to become soccer stars to rebuild Afghanistan.	42 – Andrew the Australian officer apologises for the fact that Jamal can't go to Australia. Jamal feels everything will be alright.