



Discussion Questions

Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg

Source: Madison Public Library and Multnomah Co., OR

1. Why is Connor the best person to figure out what really happened?
2. Why does Bran first choose Margaret in his attempt to communicate about what happened?
3. Why do you think Bran can't ask for what he wants? For example, he wants his father and Tina to use his design for the birth announcement, and he wants to hold Nikki when he first meets her.
4. Is it fair for Margaret to hold a grudge against her father?
5. How would you attempt to communicate with Bran? Can you think of a better method than the one Connor comes up with?
6. Vivian is clearly not a likeable character. Does the author make her unbelievably heartless?
7. Several times Connor thinks that if you don't say anything, you can't say anything wrong. Is this true? Can silence be incriminating?
8. Except for her lie to get at the truth when she says she had switched her silverware drawer, Margaret says there are two reasons people lie: out of fear or to protect someone. Do you agree? Why or why not?
9. Is Branwell choosing not to speak or has he lost the ability?
10. On page 126, Margaret talks about the gift of love being adversely affected by lack of maintenance and by aging. Do you think this is true?
11. Why isn't Vivian afraid that Bran will tell the truth about her?

12. As you read the book, did you think that Nikki would recover? Why or why not?

13. Will Connor and Branwell be lifelong friends?