



Questions for discussion about

GIANT

“By the time we’d finished our bolognese I’d realised that Mum wasn’t going to bring up my letter – and that I wasn’t going to either. I couldn’t face the possibility that Dad and my uncles would be even less impressed than Mum had been.

Maybe the Honourable Mention just wasn’t good enough. I was going to try harder to get their attention. I was going to have to try and be extraordinary, like my family.” (Page 29)

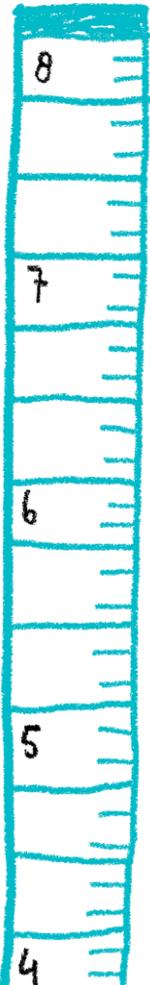
Questions:

- Do you think Anzo is right not to tell his family about the letter? Is he really ‘not good enough’?
- Do you think Anzo’s mum should have talked about the letter? Why doesn’t she?

“Was happiness a warm puppy? (I was six – I thought it was *definitely* a warm puppy. That, or chocolate ice cream.)” (Page 30)

Questions:

- Anzo thinks growing taller will make him happy – is he right? What do you think would make him happy?
- What do you think happiness is?





“My family didn’t believe in traditions, they believed in being ‘spontaneous.’”
(Page 39)

Questions:

- Do you think it’s better to have traditions or to be spontaneous?
- What qualities do you think it’s important for a family to have? Do you think traditions can help families to have those qualities?

“Painting the sets with Ms Brown was fun. She told me it was great that I’d volunteered to help because it was good to have someone tall enough to paint the tops.

‘Some of us aren’t so lucky in the height department,’ she told me, smiling. Standing next to her, I realised that Ms Brown wasn’t all that tall for a grown-up. It was funny, I’d never thought of her as small before. It must have been her personality that made her seem bigger.” (Page 95)



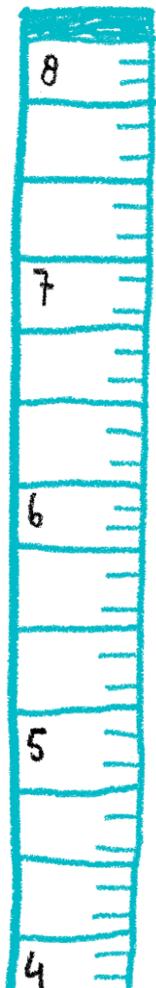
Questions:

- What does Anzo realise here?
- Think about people you know. Do you think how big people seem is only about how tall they are?

“Dad laughed. ‘I don’t think you should get involved, Anzo – we’ve already got more than enough opinions muddling the waters. You’re best off staying out of it.’ Maybe Dad meant it as a joke, but what he’d said was exactly the problem – I was out of it. And apparently that’s where I was going to stay.” (Page 78)

Questions:

- Is Anzo’s dad right to stop Anzo from getting involved?
- This isn’t the only time where Anzo feels pushed out by his family – can you think of some other instances in the book?
- Why do you think Anzo struggles to connect with his mum, dad and uncles throughout the book? Is it because of what Anzo does and says, or what his family does and says, or both?
- What would you suggest they do to try and make things better?



“I stared down at him and hoped that me being so much taller than him would make him put a sock in it.

But he just grinned up at me and then looked round to collect his extra sniggers. I could see that he was back to what he was before I’d started growing. It was like all the attention he was getting was making *him* grow.” (Page 80)

Questions:

- Why hasn’t Anzo’s new height stopped Josh from picking on him?
- What does Josh realise at this point?



“That’s the thing about Elise. She might go on about psychology and be a bit bossy (OK, *very* bossy) and have a tendency to think she’s always right. She might sound like a walking wind chime and never let you keep things to yourself. But she was a really, really, good friend.”

Questions:

- Elise has faults but Anzo knows she is still a good friend to him – why do you think this is?
- What do you think makes a good friend?



“The first thing I noticed about Jesse Edward was that he looked worried. His right leg was jiggling up and down as he sat watching us all file in and take our seats and he was drumming on his knees with his fingers. Maybe he didn’t even realise he was doing it. I was a bit surprised – he was such a successful cartoonist that I didn’t understand why he’d feel nervous – but when I mentioned it to Elise she tilted her head and looked at me oddly.

‘*Everyone* gets nervous, Anzo. It’s called being human.’” (Page 157)

Questions:

- Do you agree with Elise that *everyone* gets nervous?
- What does Anzo learn from seeing one of his heroes in person?



“I was surrounded by people who loved reading the same things, doing the same things.

Maybe Elise was right. Maybe I *was* one of them.’ (Page 144)

Questions:

- Why is this an important moment for Anzo?
- Do you think it's important to know people who love doing the same things as you do?

“It's funny how you can want a big change to happen so desperately that you can hardly think about anything else. Then, when it happens, it happens in such a slow day-by-day way that you don't even realise it's happening at all . . . it wasn't as if my family were suddenly talking to me all the time, or noticing everything I did, but little by little I started to feel that I belonged – that I had a part in our family play.”

Questions:

- Do you agree with Anzo that big changes often happen quite slowly?
- Do you think that everyone needs to feel that they have a special part to play in their family?
- How can we make sure that people feel they're noticed and important to us?
- What do you think Anzo thinks about his height by the end of the book?
- What do you think the story tells us?

