

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Siobhan Dowd (1960-2007) is an outstanding, multi award-winning writer with strong Irish roots. In her short life she produced four superb novels, all very different and equally original. Siobhan successfully created fictional worlds that can be enjoyed by readers of all ages and literacy levels. Her four novels touch on a multitude of themes such as human frailty, love, death, discrimination, marginalisation, the vulnerability of children, family dysfunction, personal responsibility, coming of age, teenage sexuality, emigration, political conflict and personal heroism. Siobhan's own story - her Irish background and the Irishness of her writing; her activism; her work for prisoners and human rights; her commitment to making a real difference for disadvantaged children; her global anti-censorship work; her zest for life despite battling cancer - is a story worthy of celebration.



## RECOMMENDED READING

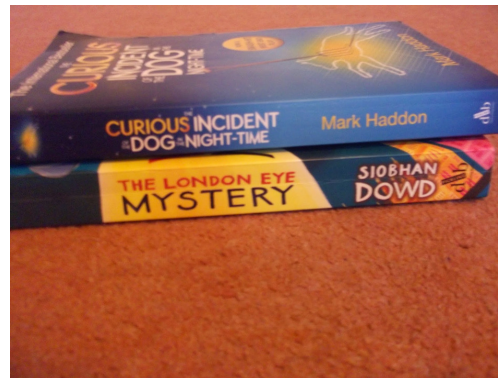
If you enjoyed this book, try...

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (2004), by Mark Haddon

*A Swift Pure Cry* (2006),  
by Siobhan Dowd

*Bog Child* (2007), by Siobhan Dowd

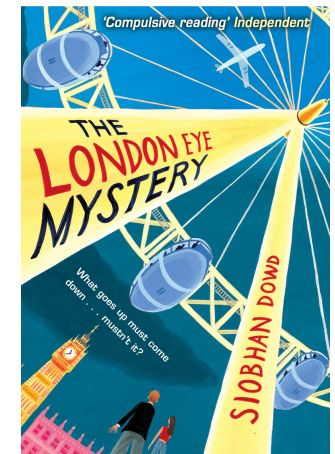
*Solace of the Road* (2009),  
by Siobhan Dowd



## ENGLISH BOOK CLUB EOI RIBADEO



***The London Eye  
Mystery***  
by Siobhan Dowd  
(2007)



## BOOK SUMMARY

When Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye, he turned and waved before getting on. After half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off - but no Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Since the police are having no luck finding him, Ted and Kat become sleuthing partners. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery. Planned as the first in a series, this is a novel that works on a number of levels and is a compulsively readable, spine-tingling thriller with subtle characterization. It provides rich veins for exploration by reading groups and also by teachers in the classroom setting. It can be appreciated not least for the author's exploration of disability as a gift.



## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

### *Narration*

The story is narrated in the first person by Ted. What impression do you get of him? What clues are given in the first chapter to show that he is different?

One of Ted's challenges is the idiomatic use of language. He interprets words literally. So when someone says it is 'raining cats and dogs' he finds this difficult to comprehend. Comment on other examples of these apparently illogical uses of language. How does Ted interpret them?

How do you think this story would have been different if it had been narrated by Kat?



### *Characters*

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each character?

Ted and Kat are typical quarrelling siblings. How does the way Ted's brain works help him solve the case? What strengths does Kat bring to the case? How do they work together to find Salim? What do they find out about each other?

### *Writing a mystery story*

How does Siobhan Dowd create a sense of mystery in this book? What is the solution to the mystery in this story?

Was the solution what you expected or were there some surprises? How effective was the solution?



Which of these issues do you think the book deals with? Choose three and explain your choices: love, bravery, overcoming adversity, hope, friendship, rags to riches, growing up, belonging, adventure, truth and lies, outsiders, self-reliance.

All stories have a conflict. What are the main conflicts in *The London Eye Mystery*? Are some of the characters in conflict with each other? Do any of the characters have an internal conflict? Is there any institutional conflict (with organisations or authority)?