

## WRITING ABOUT READING: LITERARY ESSAYS

### TRANSCRIPT OF A BOOK CLUB CONVERSATION

- Ms. Johnson: I think that Dog is caring, but also lonely. For example, it says that he runs through the “charred forest” and takes her to his cave below the river. There aren’t any other animals around.
- Mr. Cook: I agree. Another example of Dog being caring is that he takes care of Magpie when she’s hurt, not leaving her side.
- Ms. Deloy: Where do you see evidence of that? Can you go back to the text and find a specific place that shows it?
- Mr. Cook: Oh, yeah. Well, Magpie finally wakes up and the text says “Dog is waiting.” He didn’t go anywhere for a week. He just sat and waited for Magpie. It’s like she is all he has.
- Ms. Deloy: I see what you are saying, and I agree. On the other hand, it could be that Dog is happy to be alone, but wants to be a good friend to Magpie and help her.
- Mr. Cook: Could it be that Dog is both caring and sad? Characters are sometimes more than one thing.
- Ms. Johnson: That makes sense. Him being sad can connect with our first idea about him being caring but also lonely. He is lonely and he knows what it’s like to be sad (since he is blind in one eye), and maybe that is why he is so caring. For example, when Magpie says she will never fly again and Dog says, “I know.” He understands her pain.