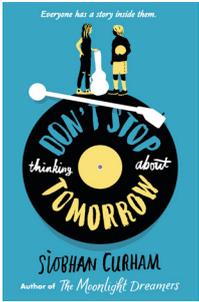




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow

By Siobhan Curham  
ISBN: 9781406387803  
August 2018

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

Fourteen-year-old Stevie lives in Lewes with her beloved vinyl collection, her mum ... and her mum's depression. When Stevie's mum's disability benefits are cut, Stevie and her mother are plunged into a life of poverty. But irrepressible Stevie is determined not to be beaten and she takes inspiration from the lyrics of her father's 1980s record collection and dreams of a life as a musician. Then she meets Hafiz, a talented footballer and a Syrian refugee. Hafiz's parents gave their life savings to buy Hafiz a safe passage to Europe; his journey has been anything but easy. Then he meets Stevie...

As Stevie and Hafiz's friendship grows, they encourage each other to believe in themselves and follow their dreams.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Siobhan Curham is an award-winning author and was the editorial consultant on Zoe Sugg's (Zoella's) first book, *Girl Online*, as well as the author of two previous books for Walker: *The Moonlight Dreamers* and *Tell It to the Moon*. Siobhan is also a motivational speaker and life coach. Her other books, for young adults, include *Dear Dylan*, *True Face* and *Shipwrecked*, and she has written for many newspapers, magazines and websites, including *The Guardian*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Take a Break*. Siobhan has been a guest on various radio and TV shows, including *Woman's Hour*, *BBC News*, *GMTV* and *BBC Breakfast*. She lives in Lewes, East Sussex.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

**These notes are for:**

- Secondary
- Ages 12+

**Key Learning Areas:**

- English

**Example of:**

- YA Fiction

**Themes/Ideas:**

- Race
- Multiculturalism
- Family relationships



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the book – how close were your predictions to the actual novel?

What are the themes in this novel? As a class or in small groups identify and list the themes. Individually write a statement of belief about each theme.

Explore the point of view of the novel. What are the positives and negatives of a novel with two voices?

How is mental illness explored and presented in this novel? How realistically do you think the author has dealt with the role of a carer in a relationship with someone dealing with clinical depression.

How is the refugee experience explored and presented in *Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow*?

What elements of Stevie and Hafiz's stories resonate with each other?

Choose a character from the novel. Explore how they are initially presented to us versus what we know about them at the end of the novel. What techniques does the author use to reveal the characters?

This novel explores the importance of our own story and how we can find it. Each of the characters are asking "will I find my story here". To what extent can we find our story by connecting to the people around us?

Hafiz says " My story is not going to be a tragedy". How much control do the two characters have over their own stories? How much control do you think you have over your story?

Stevie has her music and Hafiz has soccer. What is the importance of these two 'interests' in each of the characters lives?

What did you think about the end of *Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow*? What do you think it is saying to you as a reader?

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