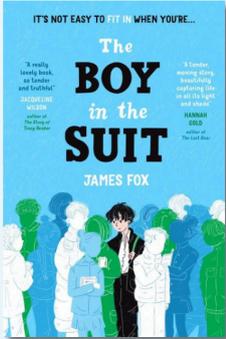


# The Boy in the Suit

James Fox

# BOOK TALK CARDS



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Ten-year-old Solo - embarrassingly, that isn't short for anything - just wants to be normal. He wants a name that doesn't stand out. He wishes he had a proper school uniform that fitted him. He dreams about a mum who doesn't get the Big Bad Reds, like his mum Morag.



## OUR THOUGHTS

"A fabulous tender and poignant novel which grips you immediately. Solo, the protagonist is relatable & endearing, his voice is sensitive, leaving the reader laughing & crying at the same time. Delves into themes of poverty and mental health. Wonderful!"



## THEMES:

- Poverty
- Bullying
- Families
- Schools
- Friendship

## TIME TO TALK

- Solo's mother Morag resorts to stealing food from funerals and uses her son to do this. Why did she do this? Is it ever right to steal? What other things could she have done instead?
- Solo's dad called his mum 'unpredictable. A 'wild card'. In what ways does Morag live up to these descriptions? How does it make Solo feel when his mother behaves like this? Have your parents ever done something unpredictable?
- Solo often gets detention for not wearing the correct uniform. Is it fair that he is being punished for something that isn't his fault? How could the teachers have supported him better?
- How does the media exposure make things worse for Solo? Is it right that newspapers are allowed to print whatever they want to without always telling the truth?
- Solo read the messages on Morag's phone from the internet trolls. How did this contribute to her disappearance?
- Chetna became a great friend to Solo. What do you think she saw in him that the others didn't?
- Morag leaves Solo a message which says: 'I can't do this anymore'. What is right for her to leave him home alone? What could she have done instead? How does this neglect affect Solo behaviour?
- Why does Solo never expose what his mum has done to the teachers? What does this show about him?
- Why does Chetna lie to her parents and say it was her fault they missed the coach back? Is it ever right to tell a lie to protect a friend?

## TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

