



## A Girl Called Joy

By Jenny Valentine, illustrated by Claire Lefevre

- The author has dedicated this book "For optimists everywhere." What does "optimist" mean? Would you consider yourself an optimist? Why or why not?
- How has the author used similes in writing the book? (Look up the definition of simile if the term is unfamiliar to you.) Do they help you visualize the character or setting? Find as many examples in the book as you can.
- Ms. Valentine also uses other kinds of colorful, figurative language, such as personification and metaphor. Find at least one example of each in the story.
- Describe each member of the Applebloom family by listing their character traits. How are the characters like one another and how are they different?
- In describing school, Joy tells us, "I have arrived at a colony, but I am the wrong kind of ant." What does she mean? Have you ever felt that way? Describe the circumstances and what happened.
- According to Joy, "reaching your full potential is technically impossible, because potential is always and only about what happens next." Explain how you agree or disagree.
- Why do Joy and Benny want to save the old tree in the school playground? Do you think all the actions they took were justified? Were the consequences justified?
- Which of the many places in the world mentioned in the book would you most like to visit and what are your reasons?
- Describe your community or some other place you're very familiar with to someone who's never visited. Use some figurative language in your description.
- How are trees important to the environment? What can kids do to help save trees?
- How has life changed for all the characters in the story by the end of the book?
- Make an All About ... page for yourself. Illustrate it with a self-portrait.

