

Task for *The Divine Wind* by Garry Disher

Discussion points for *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green

Read the book's blurb and note the cover design. What do you think the book might be about? Make some predictions based on these cues.

The novel is very contemporary in language and feel and, of course, in the methods of communication used by the characters. However, do you think the themes would have been relevant to teenagers 20 years ago? 50 years ago? 100 years ago? Discuss as a group, listing the key themes of the novel as you go.

- Discuss the nature of identity as a class. What does it mean? Is it a fluid concept? How would you define your own identity? Why does it matter how others see us? Can one's identity be copied or stolen? How do your expectations and prejudices play into your sense of your own and other people's identity? Can one's public identity differ from one's private self?
- As a class, discuss the meaning of the word 'theme'. In groups brainstorm the themes from the book. Present these to the class.
- Love, truth, honesty, peer pressure, identity, personal loss, acceptance, understanding etc. are just a few of the recurring themes. What do you think is the significance of each of these? Choose your favourite character and write a short piece from their perspective, reflecting on one of the key themes from the book.
- Awkward adolescence, first love, frustrating parents, and complicated friendships emerge within the worlds of the Will Graysons. What impact do these very human concerns have on the reader? Do you relate to the characters? Do you think older readers will? Are these themes universal?
- As a class discuss the structure of a novel. Construct a timeline or order of key events for *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. Now compare your timelines in groups. Are your timelines similar? Did you find it difficult to plot out what happened and when? Did you need to refer back to the novel?
- Many novels have clear endings or resolutions. What do you think is the purpose of this? What effect does this have on the reader? Despite this, are you left wanting more? Did you find the resolution in this novel affecting? Uplifting? Positive? Negative? Realistic? Discuss your reactions as a class.