

1a Tick all the topics you think are discussed in this book.

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|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| acting like a man | <input type="checkbox"/> | being a father | <input type="checkbox"/> | being gay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| being ill | <input type="checkbox"/> | being pregnant | <input type="checkbox"/> | feeling angry | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| feeling ashamed | <input type="checkbox"/> | getting married | <input type="checkbox"/> | going to university | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| having a dream | <input type="checkbox"/> | losing a baby | <input type="checkbox"/> | losing a parent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| single parents | <input type="checkbox"/> | talking about feelings | <input type="checkbox"/> | wanting to die | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1b What do you think about the title *Boys Don't Cry*? Do you agree with it? Why/Why not?

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2a Draw lines from the characters to the words that describe them. You can use the words more than once.

lucky	Adam	good-looking
scared	Aunt Jackie	beautiful
clever	Collette	sad
dreamer	Dad	funny
furious	Dante	gay
angry	Emma	ashamed
stupid	Josh	kind
alone	Melanie	coward
happy	Logan	scarred
stubborn		jealous

2b Complete the table.

	Who says this?	Who to?	About who or what?	Why?
<p>He makes me uncomfortable.</p>				
<p>That's life . . . Some people can walk away, and some people can't.</p>				
<p>Would you be talking to me like this if I was Emma's mum instead of her dad?</p>				
<p>You'd give away your own baby because this isn't a good moment for you?</p>				
<p>You always thought you were better than us – going to go to university to be a journalist. Look at you now!</p>				

2c If you could choose one character to play in a film of this story, who would it be and why?

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3a Imagine that you are Dante. Look at the pictures and tell Emma what happened in the story.



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3b Complete this police report about the attack on Adam.

..... POLICE REPORT ON ATTACK

What happened? attacked

Where did it happen? At

When did it happen? On

Who did what?

Why did it happen?

4 Work in pairs. Ask questions to one of the main characters in the story.

What is your name?
.....

What happened to you?
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Why did you decide to . . . ?
.....

Would you do anything differently if you could?
.....

Why/Why not?
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What is your life like now?
.....

Are you happy?
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What are your plans?
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5 Imagine that you are Adam. You receive this letter from Josh after the attack. Write a reply.

Adam,

I know I'm probably the last person you want to hear from, but I hope you'll read this letter.

I'll be in court soon. The police have photos and doctors' reports of your injuries, so I'll probably go to prison because of what I did to you. Mum has washed her hands of me and my friends don't want to know me any more.

You were right – I'm a coward. But I need to say this to you. I'm really, really sorry about what I did to you. Even now when I think about it, I can't believe what I did.

Can I ask you a favour? Will you write to me in prison? I'll send you my address, but I'll understand if you don't want to. Isn't it strange? I thought I'd lose all my friends if they knew I was gay, but I've lost them anyway.

I heard you haven't returned to school yet. Is it because, like me, you feel dead inside – like there's no reason for living?

I told you things I've never told another person – ever. I told you I cared about you. That's still true, but I still hurt you. Now you think the world is full of two-faced people and liars like me, so what's the point? Every second of every day I'm sorry for what I did. I hope you'll write back to me – but if you won't or can't, I'll understand.

Take care of yourself.

*Your friend,
Joshua*

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6 Have a class debate about one of these statements from the book.

“Being gay isn’t an illness!
You’re either born gay or you’re not born gay
and are heterosexual – end of conversation.”

“I don’t need a Plan B. A Plan B means that somewhere in my head,
I think that I’ll fail. But I’m too good to fail.”

“I want to live my life out loud, not whisper through life . . .
I can’t live my life like that.”

“Men think it’s not strong to ask for help.”

“I thought that Mel must be on the pill or something like that.”