

PROUD of me

Discussion Questions

1. Secrets are shown to be a key theme right from the start of the novel. Why do you think the characters all keep secrets?
2. Why do you think Josh is so keen to find his biological dad and Becky isn't? Why do you think Josh focuses more on not having close male relatives than Becky does?
3. Throughout the novel Becky and Josh constantly talk about how they are similar/different to each other and their mums. Why do you think this is? Are you similar in any ways to members of your family?
4. When Jayden makes homophobic comments about the Pride group and LGBTQ+ people, Josh doesn't say anything. Instead he ignores him as "I've learned to tune out and just nod once Jayden starts telling us what his dad says about things. It's usually rubbish." Is this a good way to deal with Jayden? Would you react differently or the same as Josh? What does Josh learn by the end of the novel about dealing with people like Jayden?
5. Pride Group means different things to different characters in the book. What does it mean to Josh? How is this different to what it means to Archie or to Becky? How is it similar?
6. When Becky says she doesn't want to put a label on her sexuality, Archie replies saying that's "A cop-out. Look, if someone else puts a label on you and uses that to define you or put you in a box or to treat you like dirt, then of course that's bad. But when people say that they're not into labels, it's probably because they've bought the whole idea that being LGBTQ or whatever is bad, so they don't want to be associated with it. But labels can be good if you reclaim them, then you can share who you are with other people and be stronger together." Do you agree with Archie? Should people put labels on each other or themselves? Should you be proud of your labels?
7. When Josh was on the train, he thought the older couple were judging him. He later finds out they were just concerned about his safety. How often do misunderstandings shape the events of the book?
8. When Becky comes out to her parents, she doesn't get the reaction she was expecting. Why do you think this is? Why do you think they're worried about her and is this worry greater because they're gay?
9. Becky says "Mum and Ima have always been clear: our family's nothing to be ashamed of, but nothing to draw attention to either. We're normal, just like everyone else. Some things are, well, not exactly secret, more private, to keep within the family. Just in case. In case of what, I've never been sure." Why do you think Becky's Mum and Ima think like this? What do you think the "Just in case" means? How does this link to the discussions in the final chapter?
10. What did you think of the ending? Why do you think Sarah Hagger-Holt chooses not to share the donor information with her readers?