

Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

The Secret of Haven Point

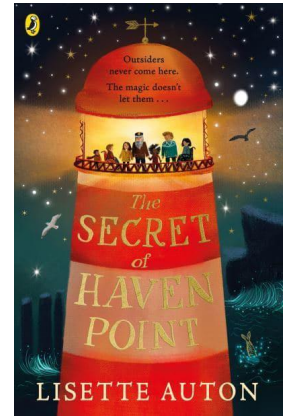
by **Lisette Auton**

with illustrations by **Valentina Toro**

Puffin Books

A cast of disabled characters star in a coastal adventure, complete with mermaids and shipwreck lootings. This magic-realism narrative also comes with challenges to myths about disabled people, a visionary community underpinned by a social model of disability and a subtle exploration of separatism.

Shortlisted for the 2023 Little Rebels Book Award



Social Justice Themes: Disability Rights; Equal Treatment; Well-being

Things to talk about

- How would you describe the community the Wrecklings have created at Haven Point?
- Everyone plays their part in the Wrecklings community but, as Alpha explains on p183, 'we measure worth differently here'. What does she mean by that?
- Alpha refers to Ephyra as 'my 'not-mam, my not-big sister'; the wider Wrecklings call each other their 'found-family'. What does this mean? What do you think makes a family?
- Read the Author Note. The author identifies as disabled (so does the illustrator), but she says she still worries about getting disability representations 'right' in her writing. Do you think the best people to write about disabled characters need to be disabled themselves?
- At the start of the novel, the Wrecklings community could be described as a separatist community (look it up!). By the end it is quite different. What things have changed? Do you think these changes are for the better or worse?

Activities

- The Wrecklings community is in lots of ways inspired by the social model of disability. Look up what this means. How do you think this model informs how the Wrecklings have built their environment/home?

Extended

- Disabilities are often, even now, used in film to suggest a character is evil. Do a web search under 'disability James Bond films'. Do the results surprise you? What films/series do you know which include disabled characters? Are these very different from the Bond films?

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org