



TALKING POINTS

No Stone Unturned

Helen Watts (A&C Black, ISBN 978-1-4729-0540-6)

1. *No Stone Unturned* takes the reader back and forth in time. Why do you think the author chose to do this? Do you think it is effective as a storytelling technique?
2. In Chapter 2, Kelly thinks back to a conversation she had with her father not long after she started attending the Shakespeare Academy in which she told him, *"You need to let me do this my way. I have to try to fit in, do what everyone else does."*
 - a) Why do you think she said this?
 - b) Does she stick to this approach throughout her first year?
 - c) Contrast how Kelly felt about school in Year 7 with the way she feels about school by the end of Year 8 when she is on her trip to the Houses of Parliament.
3. At the end of Chapter 19 (page 140), Kelly tells Leanne, *"I happen to like different"*. Discuss the ways in which Kelly Hearn is 'different'.
4. Tyson is only a little dog but he has a big part to play in Kelly's adventures. Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?
5. Do you think that Alice Denton loved her husband, William?
6. Contrast and compare the two father-daughter relationships explored in the novel – ie, Kelly and Joe Hearn, and Alice Denton and Reverend Frederick Knott.
7. Do you think the author portrays Sir Charles Barry as a good man? Why/why not?
8. In Chapter 17, when Kelly and Ben are exploring the abandoned shed, Kelly notices how Ben's moods seem to blow from hot to cold and how one minute he is happy to help her with her research, the next he clams up. Considering what you know about Ben by the end of the novel, can you explain how and why his moods change as they do?
9. Discuss how the author reveals Ben's true identity. Was the final revelation a surprise to you? What clues did the author give the reader throughout the story?
10. In her Author's Note, Helen Watts reveals which true events inspired the novel and how she changed some historical details to create her story. Do you think she was right to do so and what impact does blending fact with fiction have on you as a reader?