

THE BOXER

Nikesh Shukla

DISCUSSION POINTS

- *'I couldn't take the train. I knew that. The thought made my lungs feel like they were filled with hot air.'*
Sunny experiences an extremely traumatic event that impacts on his everyday life. We can see it in his fear of taking the train – can you identify any other moments when Sunny displays symptoms of trauma?
- If you or someone you know was racially abused, what would you do? Would you call the police? If not, why not?
- *'Why had they called me a Paki?'*
Sunny is surprised by his attackers' use of racist slurs to verbally abuse him. Why do you think this is?
- One of Sunny's reasons for beginning to box is so that he can dominate his own space. What does owning your space mean to you?
- *'Sunil, we've totally misjudged you.'*
Martin and Joe project stereotypes onto Sunny. Why is racial stereotyping and labelling wrong?
- What are the reasons for the breakdown of Keir and Sunny's friendship?
- *'It was my fault.'*
Sunny repeatedly blames himself for the situation he finds himself in, as opposed to blaming others and allowing them to be accountable. Why do you think he does that?
- Is there a moment in the story that, if things had happened differently, might have prevented Keir becoming radicalised? How much do you think Keir is to blame for what happens to him?

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