

An Analysis of *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*

1. One of the novel's main themes is the difficulty of communicating painful or personal information to those we love. In what ways and for what purpose do the characters in the novel make use of indirect methods of verbal communication such as notebooks, letters, a voice synthesizer, walkie-talkies, signs, newspapers, stories, and voice messages? Identify 2 specific examples.
2. How does the novel make use of methods of non-verbal communication such as touch, drawing, sculpture, photographs, and music? Identify 2 specific examples.
3. How does Oskar affect each of the people he comes into contact with? How does he himself serve as a kind of key that unlocks the mental and emotional prisons in which these characters are confined? Identify 2 specific examples.
4. The novel is filled with elaborate patterns of imagery that help to reinforce its central themes and ideas. Consider the function of the following kinds of imagery: -- images of physical boundaries or barriers such as walls, doors, closets, windows, boxes, sleeping bags, coffins -- images of things that eliminate boundaries such as keys, doorknobs, keyholes -- images of planes, airports, watching planes, plane crashes, planes dropping bombs -- images of physical symbols or tokens such as mementos, clues, memorials, documents, & photographs. Identify & explain 2 specific examples.