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| **Key Vocabulary** |
| basked | To lie in or be exposed to heat. |
| coincidence | Where two or more events that happen at one time by chance |
| compacted | Joined or packed together closely |
| cordoned | To surround or block off. |
| crevice | A crack forming an opening. |
| daunted | Frightened and alarmed by something |
| debris | The remains of anything broken down or destroyed. |
| expectantly | Waiting with an excited, hopeful feeling. |
| expressionless | Having a blank look on the face |
| hoarse | Raspy in voice |
| jowly | Having full or saggy skin on the lower cheeks and jaw area. |
| mangled | Severely injured, ruined |
| remnants | A remaining, usually small fragment or scrap |
| retreated | Pull back, withdraw yourself from something |
| resembled | Look or be like |
| spores | A germ. |



D – Decode

E – Explain

R – Retrieval

I – Inference

C – Word Choice

**Key Quotes**

‘When you wish that a Saturday was actually a Monday, you know there is something seriously wrong.’

**Plot summary**

When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way.

Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him.

His mum doesn’t really like looking outside – but it’s going outside that she hates. She’s happier sleeping all day inside their tower, where it’s safe. But one day, other tower blocks on the estate start falling down around them and strange, menacing plants begin to appear.

Now their tower isn’t safe anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there’s no way out . . .

**Themes**

The main themes are family, friendship, mental health, environment and isolation.

**Key Characters**

Ade – A loyal and determined boy who lives with his mum in a flat in a London tower block.

Mum – Ade’s mum who is suffering from depression and refuses to leave their flat.

Gaia – Ade’s best friend at school who lives in the tower block opposite Ade’s.

Dory – An old woman who lives in Ade’s tower block.

Obi – The caretaker of Ade’s tower block.

Ben – A man who live in Gaia’s tower block.

**Context**

This book sounds like a straightforward science-fiction tale, in which Day of the Triffids style plants consume buildings and cast out deadly spores. In fact, it reads more like a fable about friendship, loyalty and bravery, beautifully told in the voice of a lonely young boy struggling to make sense of all that is going on around him - from the extraordinary events he sees from his window, to his mother's illness. Taking place in a believable urban, multicultural environment that will be familiar to many young readers, Polly Ho-Yen's draws on her experience of teaching in schools surrounded by tower blocks and the impact it had on her pupils.

The Boy in Tower

By Polly Ho Yen