



Cool By Michael Morpurgo

Review written by Adam Lomax

'Cool' is a moving and thoughtfully written book concerning the events of a road traffic accident.

For me, the main themes that the author highlights are hope and frustration.

Throughout Robbie's time in the coma, his loved ones hope to bring him round through items and people that mean a lot to both him and them.

For example, Robbie's sister leaves him her prized soft toy and Robbie's father arranges a visit to Robbie's favourite football player –

Gianfranco Zola!

Frustration is evident throughout the book – Robbie's mum is frustrated that she sent Robbie away that day to walk the dog, Robbie's father is frustrated in his attempts to raise Robbie and Robbie himself is frustrated that he is not physically able to make known his wishes though he does believe telepathy works!)

'Cool' was moving for me as a parent, as the helplessness felt by Robbie's parents during his coma would be the worst feeling in the world.

However, the book does not just focus on negative events. The author illustrates that positive things can come out of even the worst situations. The parents are brought back together through Robbie's accident and Robbie even gets to see his hero score the winning goal against Manchester United. This was a low point for me, as a Man Utd fan!

In summary, 'Cool' is well written and allows the reader to empathise with the characters and teaches a couple of valuable lessons – positives can and do come out of negative events and that children often love their pets more than their sporting heroes and even their parents – I'll remember that!