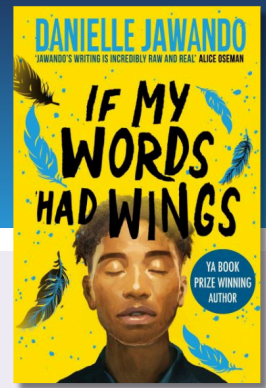




# BOOK TALK CARDS



## THEMES:

Racism • Justice  
Poetry

## If My Words had Wings

by Danielle Jawando

Tyrell Forrester is getting out of young offender's prison after serving two years for a high-profile robbery. Inspired by a poet, he discovers a whole new world through spoken word. But will society see him as anything more than a criminal?



### OUR THOUGHTS

"Intense and raw, this is a well-written story that leaves you rooting for characters that don't usually provoke much sympathy."

## TIME TO TALK

- 1 What do you think the main themes of the book are?
- 2 Ty was sent to a Young Offenders Prison after he was convicted of a crime. Do you think this is a suitable environment for these young people?
- 3 Can you think of some words to describe how reading about prison life made you feel?
- 4 Do you feel differently about young offenders after reading this book?
- 5 Had you heard of institutionalised racism before reading this book? Did the book help you understand what it is?
- 6 Did this book feel like a hopeful story?
- 7 Ty borrows books from the library and says to Gareth, the Prison librarian, that he might not know what the books are saying or if they're any good. Gareth replies 'Whatever you think when you read them...it'll be right' (p.98). What do you think this means? Do you agree?
- 8 Has this book made you feel differently about poetry?
- 9 Did you know that prisons have to have libraries but schools don't? Do you think this is right?

## TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

