



# TOMODACHI

# The Edge of the World

by Simon Higgins

## Nail That Character

### Who am I?

Form groups of four or five. On two pieces of plain paper, draw up two identical grids. In your groups choose four of the most significant characters from the novel and once you have reached agreement, put their names in the top row of your grid.

Cut the second grid into forty cards of the same size so that you have blank slips of paper.

Now you will each brainstorm a list of adjectives or adjectival phrases which best describe your choice of characters.

### How To Play

Discuss your choice of describing words, from your groups, and choose the best ten which are then written on ten of the cards you previously cut out. Be prepared to justify your choices. Shuffle the cards and then swap grids with another group.

Each person in the group takes ten cards and has a turn to place the cards beneath the character they believe it represents, explaining why they believe it best describes that character. The game gets interesting when others in the group challenge your placement of a card. If challenged, you must use your knowledge of *Tomodachi* or your discursive background to prove that *your* adjective belongs where you put it. The rest of the group must agree with the placement before the next person can take their turn. If no agreement is reached, the card is removed and that player waits till their next turn.

When the game is complete, check with the group that made the game you played to ensure that you put the words where they intended them. If you disagree you can always have them justify their placement!

### Now What?

Glue the cards into position and put them up on the wall so that the class can see the adjectives used for the characters. You might find a number of phrases are repeated.

In your groups discuss questions one to five and then write your answers in your books. Complete activities six to nine independently.

- 1 If many of the same words were used to describe the characters, what might it tell us about our vocabulary?

- 2 Which character had the most original description based upon all the grids?
- 3 Why do we feel a need to describe people to one another?
- 4 What do we learn by trying to describe other people?
- 5 Based upon your answer to question four, why do you think you were given *Tomodachi* to read in class?
- 6 In your books write a response to the statement below:  
**Nail That Character** helped me to connect with and understand characters in the book.
- 7 Choose one of the characters from your grid and write a descriptive paragraph about them. See if you can use all of the adjectives you had in their names in the game.
- 8 How did your choice of character for the previous activity, help to further the plot? Was another character more influential? What did your chosen character reveal about either, Daniel, Kenji or Otsu?
- 9 Choose one of the characters and write a timeline for the following twenty years of their lives. Try and predict what might happen to them. You may also predict Kenji's life for the twenty years after the last chapter.