



DOCENTE

Soluções



1. Model answer: Anna calls herself “my sister’s keeper” because she was engineered in a lab so as to be a perfect match for her sister Kate, and save her life.

20 AULA DIGITAL

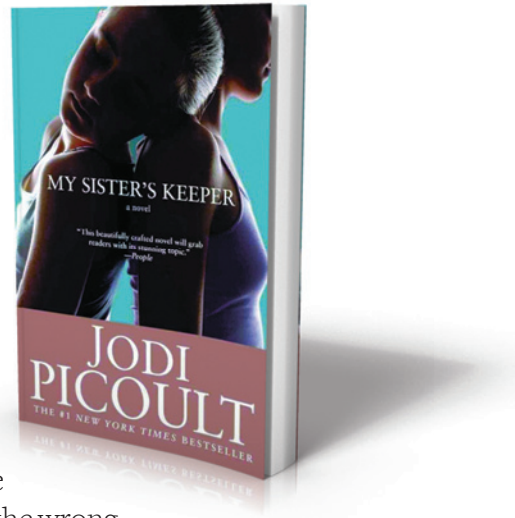
■ Animação – Texto narrado
My Sister’s Keeper

READING Time

- 1.** Why does this girl, Anna, call herself “My Sister’s Keeper”? In this extract from a novel, find out the reason.

My Sister’s Keeper

- I am Anna. When I was little, the great mystery to me wasn’t *how* babies were made, but *why*. The mechanics I understood – my older brother Jesse filled me in – although at the time I was sure he’d heard half of it
- 5 wrong. Now that I am thirteen, these distinctions are only more complicated. I’m telling you, if aliens landed on earth today and took a good hard look at why babies are born, they’d conclude that most people have children for the wrong reasons. On the other hand, I was born for a very specific reason. I was born because
- 10 a scientist managed to create a specific combination of precious genetic material. In fact, when Jesse told me how babies were made and I, the great disbeliever, decided to ask my parents the truth, I got more than I’d bargained for. They sat me down and told me all the usual stuff, of course – but they also explained that they chose little embryonic me, specifically, because I could save my sister, Kate.
- 15 “We love you even more,” my mother made sure to say, “because we knew exactly what we were getting.” And so, the older I get, the more bitter I sometimes become. It made me wonder, though, what would have happened if Kate had been healthy. Chances are, I’d still be floating up in Heaven or wherever, waiting to be attached to a body to spend some time on earth. Certainly I would not be part of this family. See,
- 20 unlike the rest of the free world, I didn’t get here by accident. And if your parents have you for a reason, then that reason better exist. Because once it’s gone, so are you. My parents tried to make things normal, but that’s a relative term. The truth is, I was never really a kid. To be honest, neither were Kate and Jesse. I guess maybe my brother had his moment in the sun for the four years he was alive before Kate got
- 25 diagnosed, but ever since then, we’ve been too busy looking over our shoulders to run headlong into growing up. You know how most little kids think they’re like cartoon characters – if an anvil drops on their heads they can peel themselves off the sidewalk and keep going? Well, I never once believed that. How could I, when we practically set a place for Death at the dinner table? I just get sadder and sadder every day.
- 30 Kate has acute promyelocytic leukaemia. Actually, that’s not quite true – right now she doesn’t have it, but it’s hibernating under her skin like a bear, until it decides to roar again. She was diagnosed when she was two; she’s sixteen now. *Molecular relapse* and *granulocyte* and *portacath* – these words are part of my vocabulary, even though I’ll never find them on any SAT¹. I’m an allogeneic donor – a perfect sibling match.
- 35 When Kate needs leukocytes or stem cells or bone marrow to fool her body into thinking it’s healthy, I’m the one who provides them. The only reason I was born was as a harvest crop for Kate.



Picoult, Jody. *My Sister's Keeper*. Hodder & Stoughton: London. 2008 (adapted and abridged)

Glossary

¹ SAT • abbreviation for Scholastic Aptitude Test (US)

- 2.** Complete the following sentences according to the ideas in the text.

- a.** As a child, Anna found it _____
- _____
- b.** When Anna decided to ask her parents the truth, they not only _____
- _____ but they also _____
- c.** If Kate had been healthy, Mr and Mrs Fitzgerald _____
- _____ and so _____
- d.** While growing up, Anna and her siblings _____
- _____

- 3.** Answer the following questions, in about 40 words each, using your own words as far as possible.

- 3.1** Why do you think the Fitzgeralds say they love their daughter Anna even more?
- 3.2** What does the author mean when she says “(...) it’s hibernating under her skin like a bear, until it decides to roar again.” (ll. 31-32)?

- 4.** Who or what do the following words refer to?

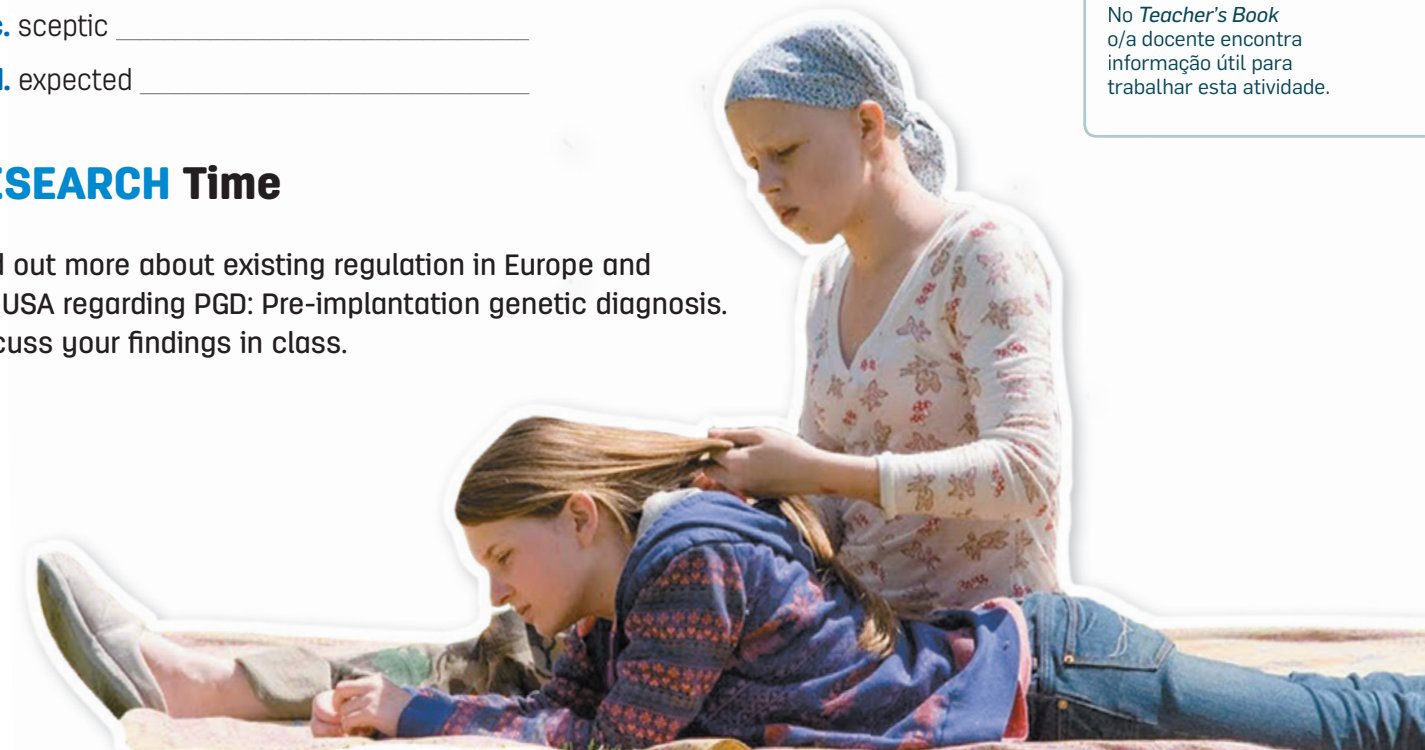
- a.** me (l. 11) _____
- b.** here (l. 20) _____
- c.** that (l. 28) _____
- d.** them (l. 34) _____

- 5.** Read the first paragraph again and find the words that mean the same as:

- a.** procedure _____
- b.** exact _____
- c.** sceptic _____
- d.** expected _____

RESEARCH Time

Find out more about existing regulation in Europe and the USA regarding PGD: Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis. Discuss your findings in class.



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2.

- a.** ... mysterious why babies were made and not how.
b. ... gave her the usual explanation... let her know that they had conceived her to save her sister.
c. ... wouldn't have conceived Anna... she would not be part of that family.
d. ... were always aware that Kate's health could get worse.

3.

- 3.1** Mr and Mrs Fitzgerald love her even more because apart from the love parents normally give their children, Anna's birth was even more important because it might mean saving Kate's life.
3.2 Kate's health, which was apparently under control, might suddenly get worse. Although she did not have leukaemia at the time, the disease might unexpectedly affect her again.

4.

- a.** Anna.
b. Life / the world.
c. Most kids think they're like cartoon characters.
d. leukocytes, stem cells or bone marrow.

5.

- a.** mechanics (l. 2)
b. specific (l. 10)
c. disbeliever (l. 11)
d. bargained for (l. 12)

Research Time

No *Teacher's Book*
o/a docente encontra
informação útil para
trabalhar esta atividade.