The Tuckshop Kid by Pat Flynn

Ideas by Rosemary Holmes

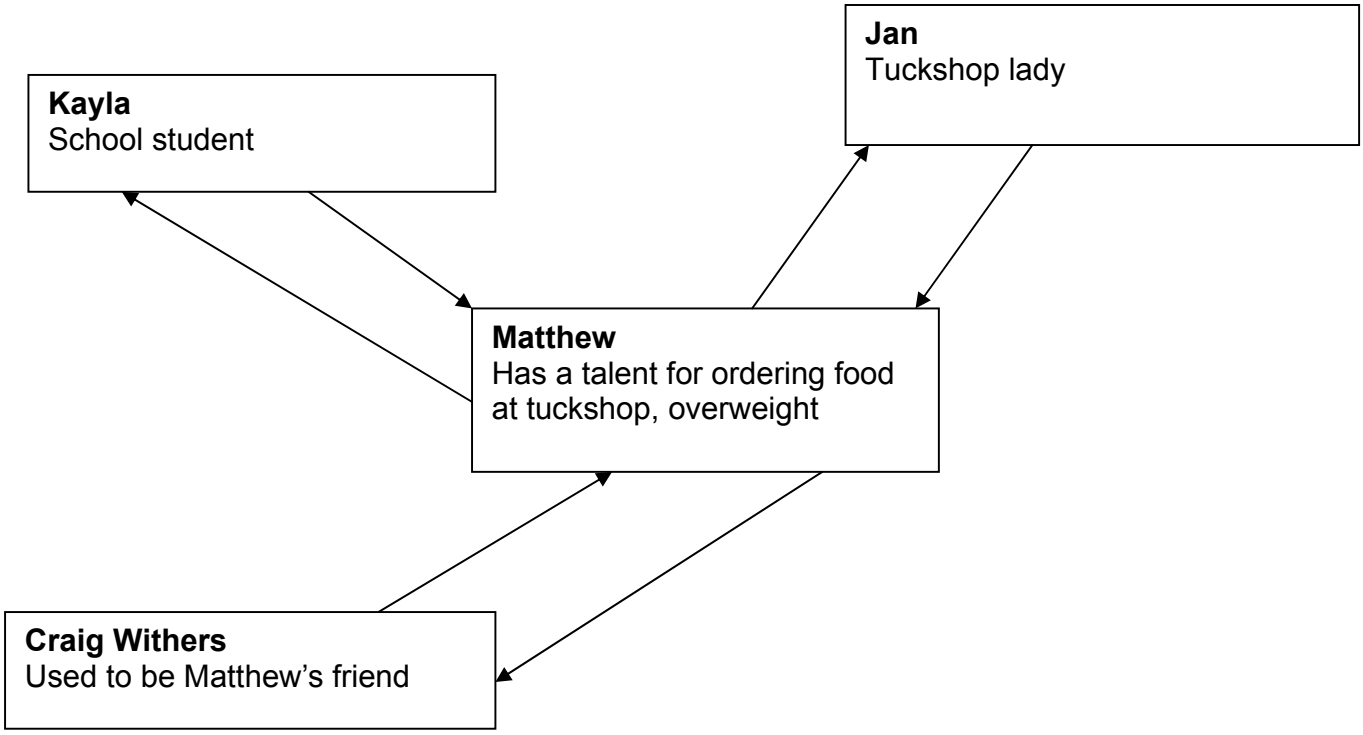
Synopsis of Book

Matthew is seriously overweight, a target of bullies but a wonder at working out the most food you can buy at the school tuckshop. His services are much in demand at lunchtime. However, when he faints during a Physical Education lesson, the doctor is worried that his obesity may have already caused him to develop Type 2 Diabetes. Mum takes notice and cuts back on her work hours in order to spend time with Matthew, cooking healthy food and exercising with him. And it turns out quite a few of the kids at school are on his side as well in his battle to lose weight; especially Kayla, the girl of his dreams who has never worried about his size anyway. (from Teachers' notes by Pat Flynn)

Themes: obesity, bullying, self-perception and its link to overeating, friendship, family relationships

Introduce the book by reading the first part of the book. (Ch 1 -6 minutes, Ch 2 - 6 minutes, Ch 3 pages 13-16 – 3 1/2 minutes)

Activity :

Complete a sociogram for the characters in the first part of the story.

In the rectangles, put anything we find out about the character. On the arrows, write how the character feels or acts towards the other character.