

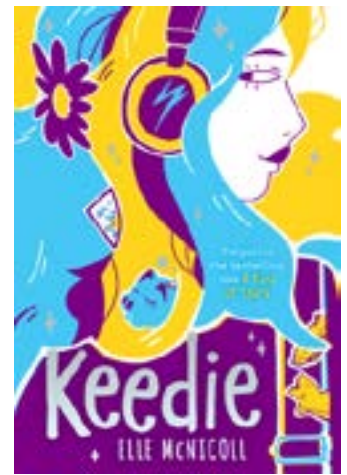
Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

Keedie

by **Elle McNicoll**
Knights Of

13-year-old, neurodivergent, vintage queen, Keedie Darrow, lives in a tiny Scottish village. It's a place which makes her and her best friend Bonnie feel exiled. But Keedie is passionate about her right to stand out and thrive. Determined to tackle their hostile environment at both an individual and structural level, she sets up an anti-bullying agency in her school and, from here, she defiantly takes on the wider village, its legacies and traditions. Prequel to *A Kind of Spark*, shortlisted for the #LittleRebelsAward in 2021.

Shortlisted for the 2025 Little Rebels Book Award



Social Justice Themes: Disability Rights; Well-being; Ethics; Equal Treatment

Things to talk about

- Read Keedie's description of bullying (P42). What distinction is she making between different types of bullying behaviour?
- Autism isn't mentioned until P44. How does Keedie describe her neurodiversity and how does she experience the way neurotypical people behave/respond?
- Keedie takes on the role of protector for other students who are being bullied. Is she right to do this? How does Keedie feel about this role? Does it fit neatly with her own moral principles?
- Even though Hugh likes Keedie he makes hurtful and bigoted comments. Why? What is the source of this behaviour?
- Read from the beginning of Chapter 14 (P109) to when Keedie walks out of school (P111). This is a pivotal moment in the book. Discuss Keedie's thoughts and feelings. Why does she walk away?

Activities

- The term, 'neurodiversity', was developed to shift the thinking from a deficit medical model of autism. What do you understand by 'deficit medical model'? Visit <https://www.donald-sons.org.uk/> to increase your knowledge on this. Make a list of the obstacles you think are faced by neurodiverse people.

Extended

- "I won't honour a figure from the past if his actions are dishonourable" (P190). Do some research into the pulling down of statues by protesters. Start here, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52965665>. Expand on this knowledge with further research.

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org