I think that young readers can identify with many different aspects in *King of Shadows*: Nat’s love of Shakespeare, his struggle with the loss of both of his parents, and his constant conflict with Roper. I think the most prominent of these is the death of his parents. Many students lose their parents in high school; I can actually think of three people I graduated with off the top of my head who had this tragic experience.

It is very easy for me personally to identify with loss because I lost my brother in the summer of 2010. Although losing a sibling is not the same as losing a parent, the impact will still change you. I think that many students will be able to identify with loss when reading this book even if it was not a parent. It could be a best friend, a sibling, or a significantly close relative. Although all of these are different types of loss, I think each type can relate to the other.

The process of grieving is a long one, and I think that through this book many readers can see that others go through the same feelings and experiences. One passage that stood out to me was when Nat was thinking to himself and he said “I didn’t let myself cry because the last time I cried was when my father died, and that was something not to be thought about, not ever” (69). I can recognize this as part of the grieving process. I immediately began thinking of my brother while reading this book because whenever I read or hear about someone else’s loss I automatically associate those thoughts to the loss of my brother. I am fairly confident that many others do the same thing

By reading this text, students may be confronted with feelings that they have intentionally put out of their mind. The situations that arise can be very personal and touchy and so it is highly important for a teacher to be prepared to address these problems. Because each child is different, each situation that may arise must be treated differently and with care.