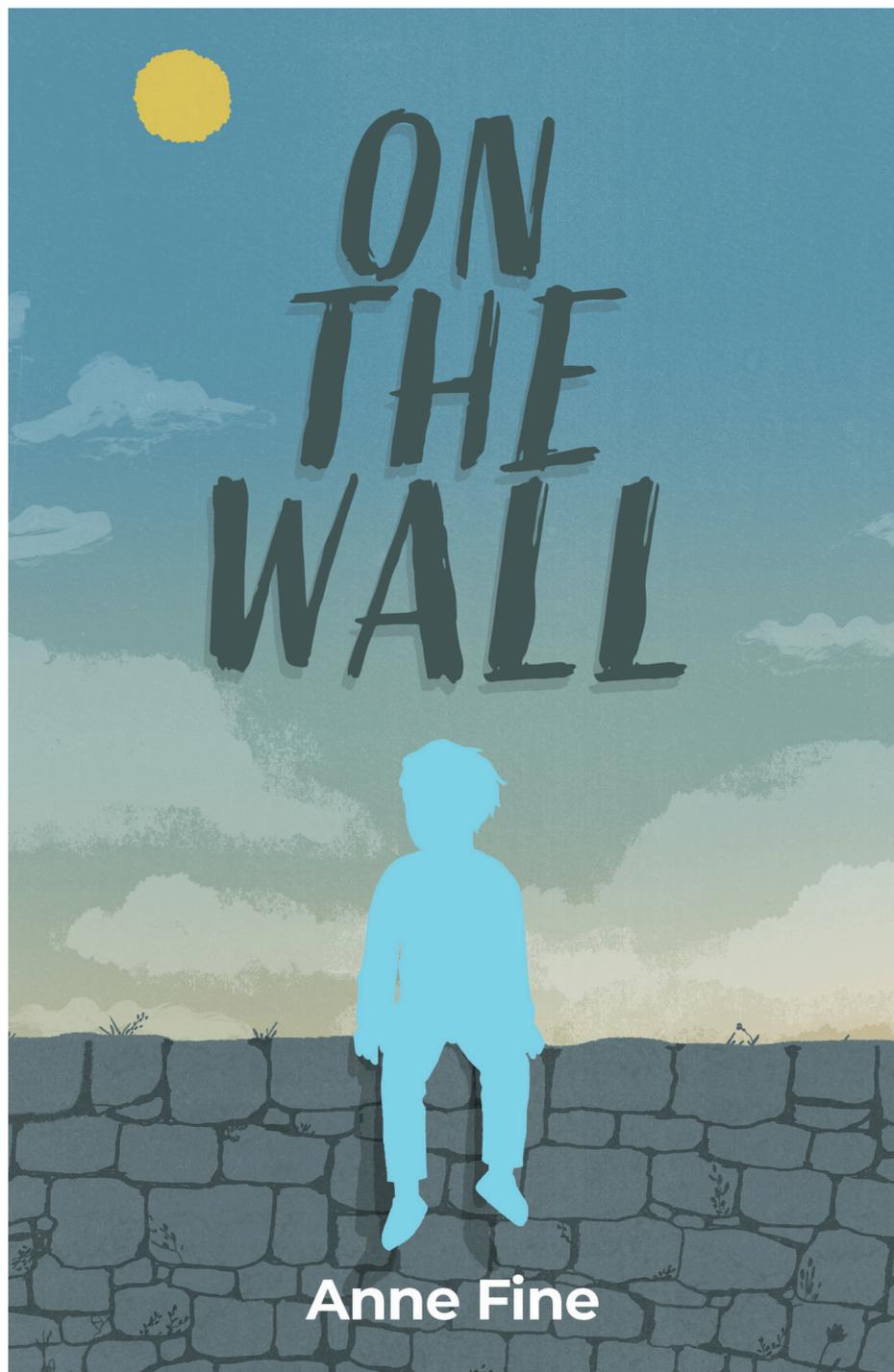


The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



On The Wall

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Author: Anne Fine

Age range: 10+

Description:

This quiet, reflective book invites a pause from the bustle of the world around us. It offers a counter-cultural picture of Finley, someone who doesn't automatically fit and provides a voice for the introverted child who might go unseen in an education system that is often set up for the more extroverted. Finley's quiet, thoughtful approach to life positively impacts on all of those around him in this highly unusual novel which emphasises how stillness and self-acceptance can be superpowers.

Themes:

- Belonging
- Individuality
- Mindfulness
- School
- Transition
- Anxiety

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Create a graffiti wall using brick effect backing paper or by cutting out individual paper bricks. Invite each member of your shadowing group to scribble mindful messages on the wall to reflect the themes and values highlighted in the book.
2. Take yourself to a quiet spot and practice being present by sitting and remaining in the moment. Relax, breathe and try to empty your head of any thoughts, doubts or worries. Spend five minutes in silence, then reflect on how you feel. You might want to try this a few times and record your thoughts in a notebook or journal.
3. Finley has the capacity to influence those around him just by being himself. Is there anyone in your life who has that kind of impact on you? Perhaps it's a parent, a friend, sibling or teacher. Think of a time when they changed your perspective and write a short poem about it.