Read the following excerpt:

“The compass needle inside me whirled; I could not trust him; he was being nice so I wouldn’t get him in trouble. I should trust him; his apology was heartfelt. I dared not be his friend, or the friend of any person. But I wanted to be his friend again.” (106)

- With what internal conflict is Curzon battling that causes him to think about this?
- Why is he struggling to trust Eben – what’s did Eben say that Curzon is unsure about?
- How is the compass being used as a symbol here? What does it stand for? Explain.
“When the pumpkin shell had blackened and cracked, I slid my knife under each half and flipped them into the snow, steaming and hissing. It smelled better than gingercake and honey together.

‘We really have to share it with the others, don’t we?’ Eben asked in a whisper.

I sighed. ‘We do.’

‘Plaguey fopdoodles.’ He tossed his poking stick into the flames. ‘It might be the death of me, you know. If it is, make sure Uncle buys me a nice headstone. Tell him I want these words carved on it “Ebenezer Woodruff died so that others might eat pumpkin.”’

‘A noble sacrifice,’ I said in jest.

‘More people should make them,’ he said, his tone not jesting one bit.”

- What is a noble sacrifice?
- Why does Curzon refer to the act of sharing a pumpkin as a noble sacrifice?
- What does Eben mean when he says that more people should make them?