

Literature Circle Questions

Use these questions and the activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *A Boy No More* by Harry Mazer.

1. Where was Adam during the attack on Pearl Harbor? What was he doing at the time? Who was with him?
2. What does Davi ask Adam to deliver to his father? According to Davi, why is it important that Mr. Mori receive this item?
3. What lie does Adam tell Jerry while they are on the train?
4. Why doesn't Adam like his new home in San Diego?
5. What do Adam and Babe Gribble have in common? How does Babe's attitude toward Adam change over the course of the story?
6. Which character in the story has aspirations of becoming an English teacher? Do you think this character will make a good English teacher? Explain your answer using details from the text.
7. Choose one character who helps Adam on his journey from Bakersfield to Manzanar. Imagine you are that character and give a brief description of Adam. What does he look like? What is Adam wearing? Based on what Adam has told you, why do you think he is going to Manzanar?
8. Think back to Adam's first day of school in Bakersfield. Imagine you are in Adam's class. What would you say to him to make him feel welcome? What would you ask him about his experiences?
9. Why do you think Adam decided not to go to New York state to live with Grandpa Pelko? Do you support his decision? What would you have done if you were Adam?
10. What does Mr. Mori give Adam? What does this gift symbolize? Why do you think this gift was so important to Adam?
11. Describe the scene at the Hotel Royale in Chapter 17. Who does Adam speak to at the hotel? Based on what you learned in the story and in the author's note at the end of the book, what do you think had happened in Chinatown since the attack on Pearl Harbor?
12. Choose one female character from the story and one male character from the story. Compare and contrast each character's contribution to the war effort. What contribution would you have made to the war effort?

13. Re-read the author's description of the Home Front on pages 131-132. Choose a historical event or fact described by the author and explain how that event or fact plays a part in the story you just read.
14. In Chapter 11, Mr. Ewing announces to the class that, "...we have a hero in our midst." Who does Mr. Ewing think is a hero? Do you agree with Mr. Ewing? Why or why not?
15. Now that you have read the story, consider the title of the book. Why do you think the author chose this title for his book? Do you think it was a good choice? Use evidence from the text to support your argument.

Note: These questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-5; Application: 6-8; Analysis: 9-11; Synthesis: 12-13; Evaluation: 14-15

Activities

1. Draw a map of California from Fresno to San Diego. Add other key towns from the story you can remember, including Bakersfield and Oakland. Be sure to include other points like Manzanar and Mt. Whitney. Then, trace Adam's journey to Fresno and his journey to Manzanar. Create a legend with symbols beside your map to show what Adam did or how he felt in each place. For example, you may want to use a fork or plate to show each location where you remember that Adam ate a meal or felt hungry.
2. Imagine you are Adam and you decide to enter an essay contest. The only rule of the contest is that the essay should be about someone you admire. If you were Adam, whom would you choose to write about? What would you say about this person? List two or three things you admire about this person and describe why you admire this person in those ways.
3. Create a title acrostic. Write the title of the book down the side of a piece of paper with one letter per line, one on top of another. For each letter in the title, write a sentence that begins with that letter and tells something significant about the story. For example, after 'N' you might write, *Nancy worked at the restaurant where Adam and his family ate dinner.*

Other Books by This Author:

A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor, Aladdin Library (November 2002)

The Wild Kid, Aladdin Library (July 2001)

The Last Mission, Laurel Leaf (January 1981)

