

Discussion Prompts

La Bamba



Here are questions and statements to discuss with your partner. Use details and inferences from the passage to support your ideas. You may jot down notes on this page to remind you of your discussion.

1. What motivated Manuel to volunteer for the talent show?
2. Why does Manuel seek advice from his friend Benny?
3. How does the fact that Manuel dropped the 45-RPM record foreshadow or predict the outcome of his performance?
4. How does Manuel feel, and what does he think, when the record gets stuck while he is performing “La Bamba”?
5. Why do Manuel’s family, friends, and the audience love his performance?
6. Discuss this sentence from the story and make a prediction about what will happen the next time there’s a talent show: “Next year, when they asked for volunteers for another talent show, he wouldn’t raise his hand. Probably.”
7. Why does Manuel use scientific jargon when his dad asks how he made the needle stick?
8. Does Manuel grow up and change in this story? Cite text evidence.