Literature Circle Questions

Use the questions and activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *The Wanderer*.

1. Where will Sophie and the crew of *The Wanderer* go on their journey, and how long will the trip take?
2. Describe some of the challenges on board the ship, such as cooking, eating, sleeping, and keeping watch. How do the sea and weather affect these simple tasks?
3. What is “the terrible dream” Sophie dreams at night?
4. What is Sophie’s story?
5. Compare Cody’s and Brian’s attitudes toward Sophie. What do their attitudes reveal about their personalities?
6. Explain why Sophie says, “The sea, the sea, the sea. It rolls and rolls and calls to me. Come in, it says, come in,” and then later awakens from a dream, thinking, “I hate the seam and the sea hates me.”
7. Each Character chooses to teach a lesson on board the ship that eventually helps each or all of the crew members. What skill would you choose to teach, and how might it help others on the voyage?
8. Sophie describes the ocean as “having many sides like me.” How is Sophie like the ocean? How is your own personality like the ocean’s?
9. Each of the main characters in the novel changes as a result of the journey. Choose two or more characters and give specific examples of how they change.
10. Compare and contrast Cody’s relationship with his father at the beginning and at the end of the novel.
11. At the end of the story, Uncle Mo gives each crew member a gift. Create your own gift for one of the characters and explain why you would give him or her that gift.
12. Names are very important on this story, and often the origin of a character’s name is explained. Choose two of the characters and design new names for them. Explain your choices.
13. Although the novel had a positive, uplifting ending. Rosalie leaves for Spain, and Uncle Dock continues to pine for her. Why do you think the author separates these two characters? Would you have ended Dock’s story this way? Why or why not?
14. Do you think *The Wanderer* is a good title for this novel? Why or why not?

*Note: The following questions are keyed to Bloom’s Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-4; Comprehension: 5,6; Application: 7,8; Analysis: 9,10; Synthesis: 11,12; Evaluation: 13,14*
Activities

1. Create a map of The Wanderer’s journey. In addition to labeling the places the ship sails, list some of the important events that happen in each place.

2. Keep a diary of a time in your life when you were faced with a conflict. Emphasize how you coped with the experience and learned from it.