The Troubles of Johnny Cannon

By Isaiah Campbell

Chapter Discussion Questions:

These questions can be used for reading groups, whole class discussion, or book club groups. Some can even be used as writing prompts for Do Nows/Bellwork. These questions are designed to challenge students to think deeper instead of just remembering the series of events in the book.

Each chapter will also include a What Would Johnny Do? (WWJD) question. These questions are designed for students to test how well they understand Johnny's character. These questions don't have a right or wrong answer. The WWJD questions are proposed to see how students are relating to and identifying with Johnny's character. Students will have fun seeing how well they know Johnny.

- 1. Johnny says he doesn't want us to think he's cocky, but his big brother Tommy says, "You ain't bragging, you're reporting the news." What's the difference between bragging and telling the truth about your strengths? Give an example of each.
- **2.** When Johnny meets Captain Morris, he says, "I felt the hairs on my neck bristle up." What does that mean? How was Johnny feeling? What sentences in this chapter lead you to your answer?
- **3.** Johnny says that he's heard that sea horses are born from their pa. Research this to see if it's true or false. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **4.** Johnny asks Captain Morris if he knows his family from Guantanamo. Research where Guantanamo is and write down five facts about it. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **5.** After Johnny comes back from fetching Mrs. Parkins, he says he's sorry he missed all the fun. What "fun" is he referring to? Would you be sorry you missed it?
- **6.** Johnny says his closest friend was a rock. Imagine you had a pet rock. Write a short story about an adventure you and your pet rock could have.
- 7. Why doesn't Johnny have any friends? How would you feel if you were Johnny and didn't have any friends for the same reason? How does that challenge you in the way you treat others?
- **8.** What does Tommy mean when he says, "Help him fight off the lions"? Why does Johnny need to help Pa?
- **9.** Describe what you know about Johnny and Tommy's relationship.
- **10.** Why do you think Tommy left? What clues/passages from the text lead you to that conclusion?
- 11. WWJD: What will Johnny do when he finds out there's no such thing as a college major in hunting?

- 1. Johnny hopes his pa and the captain are building a robot that will clean the house. If you had a robot, what would you want it to do?
- **2.** Tommy is heading to Nicaragua. Research where Nicaragua is and write down five facts about it. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **3.** Johnny says, "I made a mental note so I wouldn't forget." What's a mental note? How do you make mental notes?
- **4.** Research what a reel-to-reel tape recorder is and write a brief explanation. Include a picture or drawing. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 5. What do you think Pa and Captain Morris are doing in the backyard?
- **6.** In this chapter, the boys are talking about a boxing match between Sugar Ray Robinson and Gene Fullmer. Research this boxing match and write down why you think the characters in this chapter are discussing this match.
- **7.** WWJD What would Johnny do if he found out that Pa had spent all of the money he and Tommy had saved?

CHAPTER 3

- 1. What's a ham radio? Research what a ham radio is and write down five facts about it. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **2.** When Pa says he wants to to talk to Captain Morris after Johnny leaves, how does Johnny feel about that? How do you know?
- **3.** What does Johnny think about the colored kids having their own school?
- **4.** Why does Johnny like Martha Macker? Give evidence from the text for your answer.
- **5.** Mrs. Buttke starts every day with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. How do you start your day at school?
- **6.** Why does Mrs. Buttke think it's important to remember past events from history? Do you agree or disagree and why?
- 7. What is the best part of Johnny's day and why?
- **8.** What's an on-the-spot reporter?
- **9.** Johnny and Willie disagree about whether or not science or history is better. What do you think and why?
- 10. How would you describe Bob Gorman?
- **11.** Who is A. A. Milne? Research what A. A. Milne is best known for. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 12. What is Johnny able to buy for a quarter? What could you buy with a quarter today?
- **13.** What is Pa doing in the shed?
- **14.** WWJD: What would Johnny do if he found out he wasn't allowed to say the Pledge of Allegiance anymore?

CHAPTER 4

1. Johnny says he's "avoiding Willie like the plague." What does that mean?

- **2.** Johnny's This Day in History topic is *The Rosenbergs convicted of espionage*. Research who the Rosenbergs were and write one paragraph explaining why they were convicted of espionage. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **3.** What is a deposit slip and what is it used for?
- 4. Johnny says he was "begging (Eddie) with his eyes." What do you think that means?
- 5. Why was Eddie's price to get back the letter a sacrifice for Johnny?
- **6.** Johnny says "taking care of my family was the most important thing." List evidence from the text that supports this.
- 7. Mr. Thomassen said that he had tried to call but the phone was busy all day. Why do you think the phone was busy all day?
- **8.** Pa tells Johnny, "'Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." What does this mean? Do you agree or disagree and why?
- **9.** Why was it hard for Johnny to ask Willie for advice?
- **10.** WWJD: What would Johnny do if he found out Willie told his friends about their money troubles?

- **1.** Johnny finds notes around the house that say things like, "1,000 there. 230 in transit . . . " What do you think these notes mean?
- **2.** Johnny says that Tommy told him that he had water skis for feet. What did Tommy mean by that? Draw a picture of what you see in your imagination.
- **3.** Johnny says he would duck and dodge like Floyd Patterson. Research who Floyd Patterson was and write down five interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **4.** What does Johnny mean when he says, "I didn't even punch him [Eddie] for that. We wasn't friends enough anymore." Explain what Johnny means when he says this.
- **5.** Research the reason why John Wilkes Booth wanted to assassinate President Lincoln. Write one paragraph explaining your findings. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **6.** When Eddie insults Willie, Johnny says "that made the hair on my neck stand up." How was Johnny feeling?
- 7. How does Johnny feel about the questions the CIA agent was asking? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- **8.** As Johnny and Willie are getting things ready for the fight, they "started smelling the rain coming." In your own words, describe what that smells like to you.
- **9.** What was the spark that started the fight at the cemetery?
- **10.** Why did the sheriff let all the boys go home?
- 11. When Johnny and Willie are stuck in the truck out in the storm, why do you think they started telling each other all the bad things they'd done?
- 12. When Johnny goes out to his pa's shed, what does he hear on the radio? What do you think it means?
- **13.** WWJD: What would Johnny do if he found out his pa was helping the enemy?

- 1. The newspaper Pa is reading mentions a man named Fidel Castro. Research Fidel Castro and write down five facts about him. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **2.** Johnny tells his pa that he was sleepwalking the night of the storm. Write a fictional story about someone who sleepwalks.
- 3. Why does Bob Gorman groan when Pa asks him how the work at the airstrip is going?
- **4.** When Pa says he'll send Johnny to help with the cleanup, Bob Gorman says, "That's mighty white of you, Pete." What does Bob mean by that?
- **5.** The town after the storm is described like Tinkertoys. Research what Tinkertoys are. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **6.** Johnny and Willie team up to help clean up Cullman. The townsfolk are keeping their distance from them. Why do you think that is?
- 7. Johnny mentions a "frog in them cartoons that only sang when nobody was looking." Research Michigan J. Frog. Watch a video starring Michigan J. Frog. Record the website you found the video on.
- **8.** Describe the map that fell out of the trash.
- **9.** Research the Bay of Pigs Invasion. Write down five important facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 10. Why does Bob Gorman do everything Mr. Thomassen asks him to?
- 11. WWJD: What would Johnny do if Tommy wrote him a secret letter?

- 1. Johnny says that after everyone found out about Tommy's death, the Bay of Pigs invasion didn't seem as important anymore. Why do you think that is?
- 2. If you had a keepsake box, what would you put in it and why?
- 3. In your own words, describe the accident that Johnny and his ma were in.
- **4.** Why does Johnny say, "I thought my eyes would pop out when I read it" about the name on the envelope they found in Tommy's belongings?
- **5.** After Tommy's funeral, Johnny says that all the kids at school acted "all quiet and sad" and that nobody would talk to him. Do you think this was a good way to treat Johnny? Why or why not?
- **6.** Johnny gets nervous when Martha asks to be his partner at school. Write about a time you were nervous. Use descriptive words, like Johnny does, to explain how you felt.
- 7. Johnny uses the Golden Rule to teach Eddie a lesson. Do you think what Johnny did is a good way to fulfill the Golden Rule? Why or why not?
- **8.** Why was Mrs. Buttke's gift to Johnny so special to him?
- **9.** Johnny hears the milkman whistling "Dixie." Research this song. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **10.** Who is Whitey Ford? Research this information and write down five interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 11. Why didn't Willie feel comfortable knocking on the door of Johnny's house?
- 12. Why is it so hard for Johnny to decide if he wants to play baseball for Colony's team?
- 13. Johnny gives Willie a quick lesson in gun safety. Research gun safety laws and compare what Johnny told Willie with the actual laws. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.

- **14.** In your own words, describe how Willie explained that all people are people and that color doesn't matter.
- **15.** Why did Short Guy turn up in Johnny's shed?
- **16.** WWJD: What would Johnny do if he were asked to come up with the epitaph for Tommy's gravestone?

- 1. What does Johnny lie to Willie about? Why do you think he lied?
- 2. Why is the Cullman-Colony baseball game so important?
- 3. What do Johnny and Russ have in common? How does Johnny feel about it?
- **4.** What does Johnny mean when he says the money is "blood money"? Do you agree or disagree and why?
- 5. In your own words, describe the story that Mrs. Parkins tells to Johnny.
- **6.** Why does Mrs. Parkins want Johnny to leave Willie alone? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
- 7. WWJD: What would Johnny do if he found out that Short Guy had been following him all day?

CHAPTER 9

- 1. Where did Johnny say he found the map? Why do you think he chose that place to lie about?
- **2.** Before Short Guy leaves the Cannons' house, what does he take? Why do you think he took the items he did?
- **3.** Johnny spends some time catching lightning bugs. Research what lightning bugs are. Write down five interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **4.** What was Mr. Thomassen's involvement in the invasion?
- **5.** Mr. Thomassen is finally able to tell Johnny what really happened to Tommy. In your own words, explain what happened.
- **6.** Willie's tape recorder picked up some important information. What does Willie say he heard on his tape recorder?
- 7. Why does Captain Morris show up at Johnny's baseball game?
- **8.** In your own words, describe what happens after Johnny is stopped on the road by Mr. Thomassen.
- 9. WWJD: What would Johnny do if he were able to get a ride to wherever they are taking Pa?

- 1. When Johnny wakes up, his sense of smell brings up several memories. What smells bring up memories for you? Write down three smells and the memories they bring to you.
- 2. In your own words, describe Johnny's newly recalled memory of his accident in Cuba.
- **3.** The soldiers, who come to take Johnny out of his cell, speak Spanish. Research how Cuba has ties to Spain, and write a brief summary. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.

- **4.** Who is Fidel Castro? Research how he came to power in Cuba and write five facts relating to his power. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 5. Why do you think a man hit Johnny when he recited the Pledge of Allegiance?
- **6.** When Fidel Castro asked Johnny to pledge himself to Cuba, what did Johnny do? Why do you think he did that? What would you have done?
- 7. Who is Che Guevara? Research his role in Cuba and write five facts about him. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **8.** What reason does Captain Morris give for betraying the United States of America?
- **9.** Fidel Castro allows Johnny to see his brother. Explain what happens when Johnny is allowed to see Tommy.
- **10.** After Captain Morris tells Johnny the truth about how he's related to Johnny, how does Johnny react? How would you have reacted?
- 11. WWJD: What would Johnny do if he found a tunnel in his cell?

- 1. Johnny says, "It's funny, just a few days before, I would have paid money for Captain Morris to be my real father." Does Johnny still feel that way? Explain your answer.
- 2. How are Johnny's and Carlos's stories/life events connected?
- **3.** In your own words, describe why Captain Morris, Che Guevara, and Dr. Vega all want to handle Johnny differently.
- **4.** Research the USS *Maine*'s sinking and write down five interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **5.** Why is Fidel Castro keeping Tommy's body?
- **6.** Johnny tells Castro, Guevara, and Vega about Willie's tape recording. Do you think he should have told them? Explain your answer.
- 7. Johnny remembers information about the Wright brothers. Research Orville and Wilbur Wright and their flight. Write down five interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 8. In your own words, explain how Johnny escapes from Cuba.
- **9.** Johnny tells Carlos, "I'm sorry, Mr. Hitchcock, I think you have me confused with Cary Grant." Research who Mr. Hitchcock and Cary Grant are and what they are well known for. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 10. If you had a briefcase full of money like Carlos, what would you do with it?
- 11. How do you think that Johnny felt when he heard Major Harrison on the call radio?
- 12. WWJD: What will Johnny do if / when he gets back to the United States?

- 1. Up until this point in the story, Johnny is trying to stay away from Short Guy. Why is he trying to find him now?
- **2.** Research the Ku Klux Klan on the Southern Poverty Law Center's website <u>splcenter.org</u>. What did the Ku Klux Klan stand for throughout history?
- 3. Research Superman and the Clan of the Fiery Cross. Find the original 1946 radio broadcast and listen to it. How does this radio program relate to what's happening in The Troubles of Johnny Cannon?

- **4.** In your own words, describe how Johnny, Mr. Thomassen, and Carlos interrupted what the Klan was doing in Colony.
- **5.** What did Captain Morris do to try to get Willie to talk? What would you have done in that situation?
- **6.** How does Willie convince Captain Morris that the tape is not in the shed?
- 7. Captain Morris says he would like to settle down in Switzerland. Why would he want to settle there?
- **8.** In your own words, explain how Johnny got the tape back from Captain Morris and how he escaped from Captain Morris's car.
- **9.** Johnny compliments Martha's hair and tells her that it looks like Jackie Kennedy's. Research who Jackie Kennedy was. Write down 5 interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- 10. Martha says that she went to Montgomery to hear Dr. King speak. Research and listen to Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. It can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs. What is the message of this speech?
- **11.** Johnny tells Captain Morris that "*Your* son died. Back in Havana, I died." What does he mean by that?
- **12.** In Chapter 12, Johnny makes a reference to heaven twice. What's happening each time he mentions heaven?
- **13.** Johnny's This Day in History topic is about Benedict Arnold. Research who Benedict Arnold was. Write down five interesting facts. Be sure to record the book, article, or website where you found your answer.
- **14.** Why does Short Guy tell Willie he might have a future in the CIA?
- **15.** How did Bob Gorman finally pay off his debt to Mr. Thomassen? How did Eddie Gorman make up with Johnny?
- **16.** Johnny says, "The lesson is that you don't always get what you're hunting for. Sometimes you wind up with something better instead." What are some examples from *The Troubles of Johnny Cannon* that relate to this quote?

CHAPTER VOCABULARY:

The vocabulary words can be used in many ways:

- Educators, you can, of course, have students look up the definitions and write them down. Students can write the definition and/or draw a picture.
- As students read, have them write down the sentence and page number the word is on.
- As they are reading, have students write down what they think the word means according to the context it was used in. Ask students to give key words around the vocabulary word that helped them to figure out what the word means. Then look up and discuss the actual definition.
- Have students write each word in their own sentence, exemplifying that they can use the word on their own, using the correct context.

CHAPTER 1

- Casserole
- Cocky
- Holler
- Sidearm
- Baritone
- Invasion
- Inconvenienced
- Reckoned
- Nagging
- Discreet
- Aftershave

CHAPTER 2

- Counteracted
- Clenched
- Bewilderment
- Pulpit
- Coincidence
- Loan

- Racist
- Transistors
- Circuits
- Awkward
- Wringing
- Call sign
- Knack
- Strewn
- Newfangled
- Fiddled

- Noble
- Hand-cranking generator
- Afghan

- Tarp
- Plague
- Catalog
- Espionage
- Pudgy
- Mutilated
- Shenanigans
- Wailing
- Mortgage
- Foreclosure
- Charity
- Interest-free
- Worrisome
- Finagle
- Deterrent

CHAPTER 5

- Transit
- Wallop
- Shut-in
- Okra
- Tyrant
- Spit wad
- Treacherous
- Paranoid
- Amateur
- Telepathic
- Muggy
- Loiter
- Civilized
- Battered
- Debris
- Cyclone
- Translation

- Twittering
- Headline
- Uprising

- Sleepwalking
- Litter
- Temper tantrum
- Hangar
- Escapees
- Credibility
- Internationally
- Justice
- Revolution
- Indignant
- Standoff

- Funeral
- Memorial
- Keen
- Keepsake box
- Scrunched
- Gravestone
- Missiles
- Soviets
- Routine
- Savage
- Muster
- Postpone
- Illegal
- Primed
- Laundromat
- Civilly
- Crackle
- Unintentionally
- Variable
- Intruder

- Traitor
- Sincere
- Incident
- Bucktooth
- Sublimating
- Anxiety
- Auction
- Sobbed

- Muster
- Cartographer
- Traction
- Realistic
- Valuables
- Whittling
- Trembling
- Investigating
- Rain check
- Cleats
- Heave
- Exiles
- Recruit
- Jitters
- Tussle
- Evidence

CHAPTER 10

- Intersection
- Intoxicating
- Sling
- Matted
- Reliving
- Interpretation
- Backhanded
- Winced
- Spite
- Decisively
- Acquire
- Carcass
- Chandeliers
- Fortress

- Blubbering
- Duped
- Processed
- Tarnish
- Defector
- Brainwashing
- Refugees
- Sidecar
- Slugged

- Yoke (of a plane)
- Dumbstruck

- Condolences
- Appeasing
- Flickering
- Priorities
- Briar
- Bulletproof
- Roadkill
- Holster
- Sprawled
- Transplants
- Testimony

CLOSE READING

Close Reading is a reading strategy that encourages students to read and reread for a closer and deeper understanding of a text. Students read the first time for the general information in the reading material. The second (and subsequent) readings should strengthen the student's understanding and show them something new about the text each time they read it.

Many educators have students use a marking system while they read. This method works best when students have their own personal copy of the book to write/mark in. If they do not, portions of the book can be put up on an interactive classroom board for interaction with the text.

The following symbols can be used:



This is an important detail.



This is a word I need to remember.

- ? I have a question about this.
- ! This is interesting or important.
- C I have a personal connection to this part. Write about your personal connection in the margin.



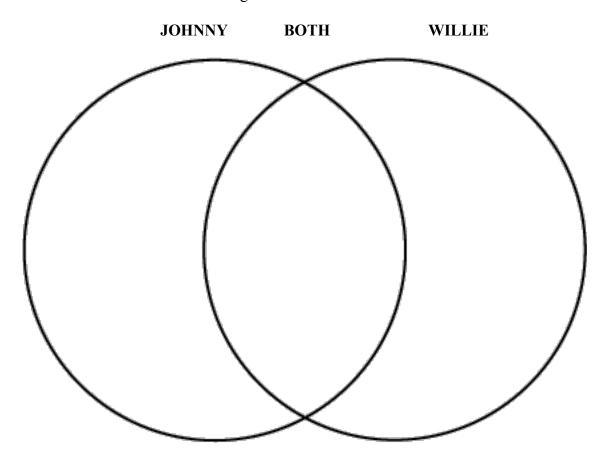
I really like this part!

ID This is an idiom.

S/M This is a simile or metaphor.

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Look up a recipe for hoppin' John (mentioned in Chapter 5), and make it with the class. Allow students to have a taste of history.
- 2. VENN DIAGRAM: Brainstorm things the reader knows about Johnny and Willie. Talk about things they have in common and things that are unique about each one. Place your facts on the correct section of the Venn Diagram.



- **3.** Extension Activity for the Venn Diagram: Have students write their facts about Johnny and Willie on index cards. Use two hula hoops to make a large Venn Diagram and allow your students to work in pairs to place the facts in the correct spot.
- **4.** Extension Activity for the Venn Diagram: After students have used their index cards to place their facts on the Venn Diagram, have the students write a Compare/Contrast Essay. This can be done individually, in pairs, small group, or whole class.
- **5.** Four P's Project: Research the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Civil Rights Movement, or Fidel Castro. Prepare a presentation for the class in the form of one of the 4 P's: A Prezi, PowerPoint, PowToon, or a Poster. You can have students work individually, in pairs, or small groups.
- **6.** Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=708LU7SIIDg to see a special message from author, Isaiah Campbell.
- 7. Have your students create their own Survival Guide. You can model your guide after Mrs. Buttke's and base them off of historical events, or you and your class can create your own fun and exciting Survival Guide.

SIMILES AND METAPHORS

Addresses Common Core State Standards CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.5.A and CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.5.A - Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context.

Author Isaiah Campbell loves to use similes and metaphors! Teach a lesson on similes and metaphors. Challenge your students to keep a continual T-Chart in their interactive notebook and to list all of the similes and metaphors they find as they read. Remind them to use the S/M symbol if you are using the Close Reading Strategy. I have also included a few examples of similes and metaphors from the book.

A Few Examples of Similes and Metaphors in *The Troubles of Johnny Cannon*:

- 1. The Captain got out of the truck and stuck out his hand like a railroad sign.
- 2. It felt like my brain was a fishing pole that had gotten grabbed by a big whopper in the water and it was bending the pole in half fighting from getting reeled in.
- 3. You was tossing like a man on a boat.
- 4. Everybody salivated over their money like dogs staring at a pile of raw meat.
- 5. I couldn't help but look down at his belly that was squeezed into his desk like an eighty-one pound pig squeezing into a two-foot hole.

IDIOMS

Addresses Common Core State Standards CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.5.B and CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.5.B - Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.

An idiom is a word or phrase that is not meant literally. It has a completely different meaning depending on its context and the culture it's being used in. Keep a class list of idioms as students discover them in the book. This can be on a class chart, bulletin board, etc. Allow students to write their idioms on a Post-It and stick it on!

As students find idioms, have them write it down and draw a picture of the literal meaning of the idiom. Then have students write down what the idiom actually means. This can be done in an interactive notebook if you use them in your classroom. Remind your students to use the ID symbol if you are using the Close Reading Strategy.

A Few Examples of idioms in *The Troubles of Johnny Cannon*:

- 1. "You can't listen to trash, kid."
- Did Captain Morris really mean that Johnny was listening to trash/garbage? What does this idiom mean?
- 2. "Tommy had a beef with so many folks, he was practically raising cattle." What does it mean to "have a beef" with someone? Was Tommy really raising cattle?
- 3. After Johnny sees his pa's disability check cut up, he says, "my stomach turned to lead." What does this phrase mean?

INFERENCES

Addresses Common Core State Standards CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Addresses Common Core State Standard CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1 - Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Addresses English Language Arts College Readiness for Reading Common Core Anchor Standard - Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

- 1. In Chapters 1 and 2, how does Tommy feel about the captain? How do you know? List examples.
- **2.** After church, some of the boys are talking to Willie about giving out tickets. How does Willie feel during this conversation? What clues are provided in the text? How would you feel if you were Willie in this situation?
- **3.** Why do you think Willie is so anxious to interview Johnny? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- **4.** How does Johnny's pa feel about Johnny getting into fights? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- **5.** In Chapter 4, Johnny finds out that his grandma borrowed money from the bank for medical expenses. What medical expenses do you think she needed the money for? What is your evidence from the text to support your answer?
- **6.** In Chapter 5, why do you think Mr. Thomassen is so interested in whether or not Eddie bet on the fight?
- 7. In Chapter 6, why do you think Pa is getting rid of all of his brand-new radio equipment?
- **8.** In Chapter 6, Mr. Thomassen acts strangely when Johnny starts talking about the small business owners in Havana. Why do you think he was acting strange?
- **9.** If Tommy told Johnny he was going to Nicaragua, why do you think the letter they received said he was in an accident in Korea?
- **10.** In Chapter 7, Johnny says that after everyone found out about Tommy's death, the Bay of Pigs Invasion didn't seem as important anymore. Why do you think that is?
- **11.** Why won't Bob Gorman let Johnny sign up for the baseball team? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- **12.** How do you know that Johnny and Willie are friends? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- **13.** In Chapter 9, Johnny tells Pa everything that's been running through his mind and lets it slip that Tommy was in Nicaragua. Why do you think Pa reacted the way he did?
- **14.** In Chapter 10, Captain Morris tells Johnny that Pa will be fine in prison and that he'll get "Two hots and a cot." What do you think that means?
- 15. In Chapter 11, how do you think Johnny felt behind the wheel of the plane?
- **16.** Why do you think Colony doesn't have a fire department?

17. In Chapter 12, why do you think Short Guy takes the credit for shooting Captain Morris?
This guide was written by Erin Brown M.Ed. and is being provided for classroom, library, and reading group use. It may be used in its entirety or excerpted for those purposes.