“President Cleveland, Where Are You?” Discussion Prompts

Name_________________________________ Period__________________

Page 230 ~ Lines 1-7
~ What do you learn about the narrator?
__________________________________________________________________________

~Would you envy Rollie Tremaine if you were the narrator? Why or why not?
__________________________________________________________________________

~In what ways is Rollie different from the narrator and his friends?
__________________________________________________________________________

~Why do you think the narrator and his friends put up with Rollie?
__________________________________________________________________________

Page 232 ~ Lines 25-40
~The narrator is anxious to buy new cards with his extra money. Do you spend your money as soon as you get it, or do you save it?
__________________________________________________________________________

~What do you learn about Jerry’s father’s job in lines 35-37?
__________________________________________________________________________

~Reread lines 47-59. What does his attitude toward Armand tell you about Jerry?
__________________________________________________________________________

Page 233
~In what ways are Armand’s and Jerry’s feelings about family the same and different?
__________________________________________________________________________

Page 234 ~ Lines 104-132
This passage develops the character of Jerry as he tries to make up for his stinginess?
~How do the boys react to the idea of collecting President cards?
__________________________________________________________________________

~Once Jerry realizes that there are no Ken Maynard cards to buy, why does he suddenly feel guilty?
__________________________________________________________________________

~What is he hoping to do if he can find Armand in time? Does he succeed?
__________________________________________________________________________

~Reread lines 123-132. Jerry is suddenly concerned about finding his brother. Why is he feeling this way?
__________________________________________________________________________
“President Cleveland, Where Are You?” Discussion Prompts

Page 235

~What lesson about family does Armand hope that Jerry has learned?

~Did you think collecting the President cards would become popular with Jerry and his friends? Why or why not?

~What adds enjoyment to collecting President cards?

~How do you think the story title fits into the story?

Page 236

~Reread lines 171-177. What do you learn about Jerry through his thoughts about the glove?

Lines 178-196 show the rising action of the plot: Jerry desire for the glove intensifies as his home life becomes more difficult.

~Why are the boys delighted at Rollie Tremaine’s frustration?

~Why doesn’t Rollie Tremaine just buy a glove?

~Why is Jerry obsessed with the cards more than ever?

~Who do you think will get the glove?

~Reread lines 197- 201. How is Jerry’s family affected by his father’s unemployment?

Page 237

~Do you think that Armand’s behavior is natural for someone in love?

~Why is Jerry puzzled by the letter?

~Based on Armand’s comment in line 219, what obstacle might he face in his relationship with Sally?
“President Cleveland, Where Are You?” Discussion Prompts

Page 238
~Reread lines 235-240. How does Jerry feel about Armand and his troubles?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~Why is the card competition at its most exciting at this point in the story?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~How does the approach of baseball season make the competition more fierce?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~Why might Rollie’s comment that he will pay five dollars for a Grover Cleveland be significant?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Page 239
~ Lines 276-300 present the climax of the story: Jerry completes his card collection. What does Armand need before he can go to the dance with Sally?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~What is Jerry depressed about? How does Armand help Jerry?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~Does Jerry get his Grover Cleveland card?
______________________________________________________________________________

~What happens to allow Armand to go to the dance?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Page 240
~Reread lines 313-316. What does Jerry’s confession tell you about the kind of person he is?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~What does Jerry risk by doing the right thing for his family? What does his action illustrate about his priorities?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~Lines 311-339 present the falling action of the story, when Jerry faces the consequences of doing the right thing for his family. Why is Roger upset?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~What does Jerry confess to him? What is Roger’s first reaction?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~How does Jerry feel about his actions?
______________________________________________________________________________

~Will Roger and Jerry remain friends? How do you know?
______________________________________________________________________________