

EDUCATOR'S
GUIDE

JUST



A



HAT



S . K H U B I A R

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HOW TO USE

Although *Just a Hat* is designed to augment English classes, it is adaptable to social studies, American or world history classes. History teachers may tailor the chapter activities to their own objectives. All educators are invited to add additional questions or activities they think will tap into readers' interests.

Essential Materials:

- copy of *Just a Hat*
- *Just a Hat* Educator's Guide

For enrichment activities:

- internet and video access

Steps to use:

1. A concise guide to the literary elements (Quick Lit) is included so that activities may be completed without a literature textbook. Make students a copy of the Quick Lit section to keep.
2. Review the lesson objectives for the chapter. Consult the Quick Lit content for the corresponding elements of fiction or literary devices. If the reader is unfamiliar with those elements, present a short lesson and some practice.
3. Assign the reading chapter. Review the activities for the chapter and prepare for discussion.
4. Assign readers activities as age-appropriate. Although many activities may be completed orally, "The Hat" question for each chapter is designed especially for class discussion. Before undertaking class discussion for "The Hat" activity question, ensure the reader understands when its use is an idiom. To ensure comprehension, perhaps ask the reader to put the idiom in his or her own words.
5. If needed, check answers against those suggested in the answer key.

READING FOR IMAGINATION

For the educator and parents:

Reading is an important skill, yet it is more than practical. Reading ignites the imagination to transform the black-on-white letters into vivid colors. Although the author describes the characters and setting, it is readers who select the shades of paint colors and details of how the characters look and the places they go. Readers imagine the sound of the characters' voices, what they smell, and how they move with very few words by the author to guide them.

Imagination's root word is "image." A mental image is how the reader draws the pictures or creates actors for the internal video of the story. The better the writer, the easier it is for the reader to imagine the story as living the experience. The Quick Lit printable guide to imagery and literary devices is a supplement to the chapter activities for Just a Hat. Using Quick Lit, readers can review elements of fiction, especially thought and imagery. The guide is not intended to be used in isolation from other language curricula, but to augment literature instruction for middle school to high school levels.

Whatever hat you wear, thank you for allowing the Nissan family to hang their hats in your classroom for a while.

All success,

SHANAH KHUBIAR



QUICK LIT

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

Theme - the underlying meaning that the author is trying to get across. The moral of the story.

Mood - the emotional state of the author as he or she writes the story. It is the author's attitude toward the subject. Sometimes the author's mood and tone may be identical; often they are not. For example: The mood may be disgusted and the tone sarcastic. The mood may be sympathetic and the tone inspirational. The mood may be bitter, but the tone ironically happy.

Tone - the term used for the manner of speaking. The tone of voice used by the author to reveal his or her mood. Example: If the tone is sarcastic, the mood is probably hostile. If the tone is cynical, the mood may be bitter and resentful.

Conflict - Those things or problems that present obstacles to the character obtaining what he/she desires. The most common are: Conflict with the self, Conflict with others, Conflict with nature, and Conflict with the supernatural.

Motivation - the thing that makes the characters think what they think and do what they do. A character may have more than one motivation.

Plot - the sequence of events that make up the story. There are 5 elements of plot:

- **Exposition.** Introduction of characters, establishing the setting, and introducing the primary conflict of the story.
- **Rising Action.** Those multiple moments of conflict that raise the stakes and create tension as the story moves forward.
- **Climax.** The peak of tension, plot, and character in the story. It's the moment the main character is forced to make a life-changing decision.
- **Falling Action or Denouement.** This is when conflicts begin to be resolved.
- **Conclusion.** The part of the story where characters tie up the loose ends to their problems.

Characterization - describing the personality or individual quality of a person or thing. The five methods are physical description, action, inner thoughts, reactions, and speech.

Setting - the time, place, and circumstances in which the story occurs or develops.

Foreshadowing - a hint of what is to come later in the story that adds to the tension.

LITERARY DEVICES

Imagery and Melody in Fiction or Poetry

Imagery is imaginative figures of speech. It is the most general type of descriptive language that appeals to the five senses. Sound effects may also affect imagery.

IMAGERY by Comparison	IMAGERY by EXAGGERATION
<p>Simile-comparison using “like” or “as”</p> <p><i>His voice was as smooth as oil.</i></p>	<p>Hyperbole-saying more than is true</p> <p><i>This bag of groceries weighs a ton!</i></p>
<p>Metaphor-direct comparison, sometimes using a “to be” verb, but not always.</p> <p><i>“War is hell.”¹</i></p>	<p>Understatement-saying less than is true</p> <p><i>After losing an engine and making the emergency landing, the pilot said, “That was exciting.”</i></p>
<p>Apostrophe-addressing abstract objects or an absent person</p> <p><i>“Oh, Death, where is thy sting?”</i></p>	<p>Irony-saying the opposite of what is true</p> <p><i>My dog lies on the porch all day and snores. He’s a real ball of fire.</i></p>
<p>Personification-giving human qualities to unhuman things</p> <p><i>“The little waves with their soft, white hands efface the footprints in the sands.”²</i></p>	<p>Antithesis-using contrasts for effect</p> <p><i>Keep your mouth closed and your eyes open.</i></p>
<p>Literary allusions-referring metaphorically to persons, places, and things from literature</p> <p><i>The face that launched a thousand ships.³</i></p>	<p>Synecdoche-using parts for the whole</p> <p><i>“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.”⁴</i></p>
<p>Symbolism-use of concrete things to signify relatively abstract things or ideas</p> <p><i>Her mood lifted when the sun broke through the clouds.</i></p>	<p>Metonymy-substitution of one word for another</p> <p><i>Baristas are all about the bean.</i></p>

1. William Tecumseh Sherman

2. “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls,” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

3. From a play written by Christopher Marlowe, *The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus*, referring to Helen of Troy in Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

4. *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

Sound Effects and Play-on Words

<p>Assonance-resemblance of vowel sounds in syllables within a sentence or line (at least 3 per line)</p> <p><i>“Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing...”⁵</i></p>	<p>Homophone-words with the same pronunciation, but different meanings.</p> <p><i>Grizzlies always use their bare hands.</i></p>
<p>Onomatopoeia-words that sound like their meaning, such as whisper, hiss, hoot, bang</p> <p><i>The bells clanged.</i></p>	
<p>Alliteration-words beginning with the same consonant sound (at least 3 per line)</p> <p><i>“Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers...”</i></p>	

5. “The Raven,” by Edgar Allan Poe

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER ONE

Lesson Objectives: The reader will use context clues to select vocabulary words and identify context clues that contribute to characterization and setting.

Vocabulary:

- Baba
- sharbet
- Tejanos
- Persia

Fill in the blanks:

The Ybarras are _____, and Joseph's Maman and _____ are from _____ where _____ is enjoyed as a frozen treat.

Questions

1. From which country did Joseph's family emigrate?
2. What language do people from Iran speak?
3. What is the more ancient name of the country of Iran?
4. Why does Joseph think his father might be a coward?
5. Why do you think neither Mr. Nissan nor Mr. Ybarra stopped the two bullies?

The Hat

Why is Chapter One entitled "Cat in the Hat"?

CHAPTER TWO

Lesson Objectives:

1. The reader will identify elements of characterization by matching vocabulary words with the corresponding character.
2. The reader will match elements of fiction and figurative language, theme, characterization, and antithesis, to a corresponding quote.
3. The reader will identify elements of the Nissan family's Persian culture as characterization and setting.

Vocabulary

- stately
- waltz
- "dirt on my head"
- bookish

Fill in the blanks:

LaLa lives in a _____ home and likes to play a _____ on the piano. Her husband Mr. Thaddeus was a _____ man.

Baba uses lots of Persian expressions, like _____ when he is frustrated.

Match the element of fiction to a corresponding quote:

theme characterization
antithesis

1. _____ "It was a time when good Texas

families built wide, hospitable porches and thick, solid doors.”

2. _____ “He won’t stand up for himself, even when people are wrong.”

3. _____ “Dear, wearing Mr. Kamran Nissan’s hat is earned with a lot of suffering and bearing hard burdens.”

Questions

1. What do you think Joseph’s complexion is? Why?
2. If few women in Iran could drive a car in the 1960s, do you think the culture was different there?
3. What habit did Joseph pick up when he visited relatives in Israel during the summer?
4. Where was Joseph born?
5. What memories do Joseph’s parents have of Iran?
6. Find a simile in the chapter:

The Hat

Why is Chapter Two entitled “Construction Hat”?

CHAPTER THREE

Lesson Objectives:

1. The reader will identify Joseph’s conflicts by using vocabulary words in context.
2. The reader will identify conflict in the plot by describing the relationship between Joseph and his cousin. The reader will identify elements of characterization and foreshadowing by describing the family relationship.

Vocabulary

- “playing by ear”

- bar mitzvah
- Shabbat

Fill in the blanks:

Sometimes LaLa can’t tell whether Joseph is reading the music or _____.

At his _____, Joseph is afraid he’ll shame himself or his parents.

_____ is a special day for Joseph’s family each week, and there are things to consider in order to preserve how special it is.

Questions

1. How were telephone calls different in the late 70s compared to today?
2. What kinds of stories do Joseph and Shahla tell each other every week?
3. Why do you think their mamans don’t speak English as well as their babas?
4. What happened to Shahla’s parents? How is Shahla related to Joseph?
5. What is the game Joseph and Shahla play at the end of their phone calls?
6. Which element of plot best describes the following quote? Circle a, b, or c below.

“You didn’t leave family behind without a pretty good reason. You didn’t withhold happiness for no reason. Joseph wanted to know the reason.”

- a. climax
- b. denouement
- c. foreshadowing

The Hat

The Texas state flower is the Bluebonnet. Why is Chapter Three entitled “Bluebonnet”?

CHAPTER FOUR

Lesson Objectives:

1. The reader will identify elements of setting, plot, and characterization by supplying vocabulary words in context.
2. The reader will identify elements of onomatopoeia, conflict and foreshadowing in the chapter.

Vocabulary

- recital
- obituary
- King James (Bible)
- spectacles
- solace

Fill in the blanks:

LaLa doesn't enjoy it when it sounds like her students are typing an _____ on the piano keys when they practice for a _____. When Miss LaNell scolds LaLa for letting Joseph hang around on Saturdays and makes an offensive remark about Jews, LaLa corrects her by quoting from the _____. Sometimes LaLa adds emphasis to her statements by pushing her _____ higher on her nose. Rather than become upset at Miss LaNell's criticism, Joseph cleverly plays a song that provides _____ for an old heartache.

Questions

1. Why might an American mistake a Persian Jew for an Arab?
2. On what subject do Miss Eleanor and Miss LaNell disagree?
3. Do you think hospitality is as prized in Iran as in the South? Why or why not?
4. Why does Miss Eleanor think change is coming for Joseph?

5. Locate one example of onomatopoeia in the chapter.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Four entitled "Funny Hat"?

CHAPTER FIVE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of plot and characterization by supplying vocabulary words in context and using context clues. The reader will identify an example of onomatopoeia in context.

Vocabulary

- halvah
- chord
- honky-tonk
- elocution
- kippah

Fill in the blanks:

Joseph has a taste for _____ on Shabbat, and sometimes he takes treats to LaLa's for her piano students. Vonda notices Joseph is wearing a _____ when he helps her because she bungles playing a _____. She is impressed with Joseph's _____, and he makes her laugh by playing a _____ ending to the song.

Questions

1. What was LaLa's approach to problems?
2. What things does Vonda learn about Joseph's religion?
3. Is Joseph comfortable discussing his religion? Why or why not?
4. Which religious rule did Joseph violate when he

helped Vonda practice?

5. What restriction did Baba impose on Joseph after Reverend Baer's phone call?

6. In the following sentence, underline the word that is an example of onomatopoeia:

"The phone clacked down into its cradle."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Five entitled Thinking Cap?

CHAPTER SIX

Lesson objective:

The reader will define and locate elements of characterization by using vocabulary words in context and chapter context clues.

Vocabulary

- concessions
- elusive
- Shah of Iran
- taarof

Fill in the blanks:

Shahla's baba supplies snack foods for _____ at sporting events. Her baba sometimes obtains gifts from his customers, so he is able to find caps or tickets that are _____ to Joseph. Shahla and Joseph tell one another funny stories about Persian politeness, which is called _____. Maman makes a funny comment about the _____, who is like a king.

Questions

1. Do Joseph and his cousin Shahla know each other well? How can you tell?
2. How did Shahla talk her baba into getting Houston Astros caps for Joseph and the Ybarra twins?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Six entitled Baseball Cap?

CHAPTER SEVEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will locate context clues to characterization, foreshadowing, and plot tension. The reader will locate a simile from the chapter text.

Vocabulary

- Goat Ropers
- puka-shells

Fill in the blanks:

In the 70s, _____ were popular jewelry, but _____ liked to wear long dusters and boots.

Questions

1. What kind of group is the Posse Comitatus?
2. What is Joseph's social group at school?
3. What is it about Joseph that Vonda appears to admire?
4. Do you think Joseph is observant of his surroundings? Why or why not?
5. Do you think Joseph is clever? Why or why not?
6. Underline the simile in the following chapter text:

In the wintertime, the Posse liked to wear long, cowboy-style dusters, but they'd melt like a chocolate bar in a hot car in this late summer heat.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Seven entitled "Watch Cap"?

CHAPTER EIGHT

Lesson objective:

The reader will locate context clues to conflict in the plot and character motivation.

Vocabulary

- muktzeh
- doily

Fill in the blanks:

Someone might mistake a kippah for a _____ because it is round. An object that is _____ is not permitted to be carried on Shabbat because it violates the holiness of the day.

Questions

1. Was it easy to be Jewish in a small town in Texas in 1979? Why or why not?
2. Did Joseph try to avoid fighting the bullies?
3. What made him decide to fight?
4. Why do you think Joseph kept the receipt for the groceries?
5. What is Joseph's only hope in facing his father?

The Hat

Why do you think Chapter Eight is entitled "Mad Hatter"?

- Havdalah
- doogh
- blueprint
- motreb
- dhimmi

Fill in the blanks:

An engineer knows how to design practical things by using a _____, but a _____ is a musician who entertains. A _____ in certain countries is expected to pay a special tax if he or she is a minority religion. _____ closes out the Shabbat and opens a new week for Jews. A special Iranian drink that may be enjoyed any day of the week is _____.

Questions

1. Why was Joseph so ashamed to be sent to his room?
2. Imagine Joseph's and his baba's kippahs sitting side-by-side on the nightstand. Does this symbolize anything to you?
3. Do you think Baba was angry when he spanked Joseph? Why or why not?
4. Do you think Baba's experiences as a Jew in Iran affect how he treats Joseph's disobedience? Why or why not?
5. What changes does Baba tell Joseph he must make?
6. Identify the metaphor in the following sentence by underlining the two things being compared and circling the "to be" verb:

A varsity football jersey was a Hollywood Star in Texas.

The Hat

Why do you think Chapter Nine is entitled "Pass The Hat"?

CHAPTER NINE

Lesson objective:

The reader will locate symbols and context clues to character motivation in the chapter. The reader will identify a metaphor from chapter context.

Vocabulary

CHAPTER TEN

Lesson objective:

The reader will locate plot foreshadowing and metaphor from context clues.

Questions

1. Why does the assistant coach think it's hard to recruit immigrant students for athletics?
2. What makes Joseph's throws so hard and accurate in gym class?
3. Why do you think seeing the hawk emblem on the coach's hat made Joseph smile and agree to go to football practice?
4. Identify the metaphor in the following sentence by underlining the two items being compared and circling the "to be" verb:

"A black eye was a badge of honor, and Joseph's dodgeball win lent him renewed star status. "

The Hat

Why is Chapter Ten entitled "Top Hat"?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Lesson Objectives:

The reader will locate elements of setting, characterization, and motivation from context clues. The reader will locate an example of hyperbole from the text.

Vocabulary

- Sam Houston
- Stephen F. Austin
- "trying to put a hat on your head"

Fill in the blanks:

If I were _____, I might tell you that

_____ and _____ were in my
Contacts.

Questions

1. Why was it so important to Joseph to play on the football team?
2. What agreement does Joseph make with his parents so that he can play?
3. In the following paragraph, underline an example of hyperbole:

"One look inside the backdoor window, and Joseph saw Maman was worried sick. Football practice made him an hour-and-a-half late. He was still in his grass-stained gym clothes. LaLa was there, and her ancient address book lay open on the table near the phone. She might have the numbers of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin if one looked under 'H' and 'A.' Joseph took a deep breath and opened the back door. Yo front and center."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Eleven entitled "Paper Hat"?

CHAPTER TWELVE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of conflict in the plot from context clues. The reader will identify an example of simile from the chapter text.

Vocabulary

- Posted
- culvert

Fill in the blanks:

A _____ allows water to flow from place to place. A _____ area is off-limits.

Questions

1. Why do the Edmonson cousins look older than the other eighth graders?
2. How are the Ybarra twins different?
3. What is Mr. Ybarra's profession?
4. How does Roberto wreck his dirt bike?
5. What do Roberto and Joseph plan to do in order to fix it without being caught?
6. In the following paragraph, identify the example of simile by underlining the two things being compared and circling one of the two words that signal a simile:

"Joseph watched Mateo dip an engine part in a cleaning solution. The Ybarras owned eighty acres on the outskirts of town where oil pumps slowly dipped like giant, hungry, steel hummingbirds. Mr. Ybarra was a horse trainer by morning, and he ran several head of cows that served to train the roping horses."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twelve entitled "Dirt Helmet"?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Lesson Objectives:

The reader will locate examples of character motivation, literary allusion, and understatement from context clues.

Questions

1. Why does Joseph think he is entitled to a reasonable amount of mischief?
2. Is Joseph scared of meeting Roberto in the middle of the night? How do you know?
3. Is Joseph ever concerned that Roberto might think he is scared? Give two examples.

4. Who do Joseph and Roberto see at the old barn?

5. In the following excerpt, explain Joseph's understatement concerning the danger of approaching the barn:

"I want to see what they're doing," said Roberto. "Let's sneak into the side shed. Maybe we can see through the boards."

"No," said Joseph.

"Why not?"

"There's ticks in that tall grass."

"We've snuck out of our houses in the middle of the night onto private property on a school night, but you're worried about ticks?"

6. To which novel is there a literary allusion in the following statement?

"If he hurried, he could outpace visions of chainsaw killers, cat burglars, and crazy men named Boo hiding trinkets in oak trees."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirteen entitled "Night Cap"?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will locate elements of conflict in the plot. The reader will locate an example of personification from context clues.

Vocabulary

- generator
- bolo tie
- dually
- oy veh

Fill in the blanks:

_____ is not an expression that one usually hears from someone wearing a _____ or driving a _____ truck.

If the electricity goes out, then it is possible to power things with a _____.

Questions

1. What were the Edmondson brothers doing in the old barn?
2. What connection does Joseph make to Larry's dirty cap?
3. Why does Joseph think that if someone called the police about a prowler that it would be worse than his parents knowing he sneaked out of the house at night?
4. Have you ever done something wrong that your parents didn't know about? How did you feel?
5. Why does Joseph think Mateo is the "grownup"?
6. In the following excerpt, locate the example of personification and explain why it is personification:

"Inside were more round bales of hay. In the loft were hundreds of smaller square bales connected by blankets of spider webs. And probably ticks. Chiggers were bad because they'd eat a circle around your ankles, but ticks traveled inside your clothes and went up to the penthouse suite."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Fourteen entitled "Cowboy Hat"?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will locate context clues to setting, characterization, symbolization, and conflict in the plot.

Vocabulary

- RSVP
- Rosh HaShanah & Yom Kippur
- haftara
- cantillation
- tahdig
- kosher

Fill in the blanks:

Joseph's bar mitzvah falls near the holidays of _____ and _____. Those who are attending must respond to their invitations with an _____. At the ceremony, Joseph will use _____ to sing the _____. Afterward, the guests are treated to _____ Persian _____.

Questions

1. What mystery does Joseph resolve to solve?
2. Whom does Joseph think might be able to help him solve the mystery?
3. What is the most terrifying thing Joseph fears about his bar mitzvah?
4. What is there about Joseph's bar mitzvah that will be something new for his synagogue?
5. Does Shahla know about the letters from Iran?
6. Does having Shahla at his bar mitzvah make Joseph feel more secure?
7. What does the ladder symbolize in the following excerpt?

"Switch with me," she said. "My arms are tired." She climbed down from the ladder and Joseph climbed up.

"It's shaky," he said. "Hold it tighter."

"I'm right here," she said. "I won't let you fall."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Fifteen entitled "Safety Helmet"?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will locate elements of setting in the plot. The reader will locate examples of antithesis, simile, personification, and conflict from context clues.

Vocabulary

- tallit
- tefillin
- chignon
- bimah
- parchment

Fill in the blanks:

Joseph's _____ went over his shoulders, and the _____ were bound on his arm and head before he went to the _____ where he would read from the scroll written on _____. Afterward, he walked around the synagogue with the scroll and noticed Shahla's long hair bound into a _____.

Literary Device Practice

1. "Joseph felt both ridiculous and proud" is an example of:

- a. simile
- b. apostrophe
- c. antithesis

2. Underline the simile in the following quote:

"He slid a silver pointer down the Hebrew letters flowing like an inky black river across the pale parchment."

3. In the following quote, explain why it is an example of personification:

"Ten tunes and blessings swam through his mind. Miraculously, the right tune with the right words

tread water long enough for him to snatch them out and deliver them safely."

Questions

1. What kinds of things did Shahla do to help Joseph not to be so nervous?
2. What has Joseph memorized that he keeps confusing with his Torah portion?
3. Why do you think Joseph's father is so proud of him?
4. Have you ever felt both ridiculous and proud? On what occasion?
5. Who is sitting with Shahla that catches Joseph's eye? Why does he notice her?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Sixteen entitled "The Crown"?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will explain the use of irony and identify elements of theme and mood from context clues.

Vocabulary

- parlor
- ululate
- gooshmali
- "play it by ear"
- mazal tov

Fill in the blanks:

The activities at Joseph's bar mitzvah were not like the recitals usually played in Miss Eleanor's _____. Persian Jewish women will

_____ at special occasions, but parents might give their children a _____ for disobedience. Even if guests are not familiar with the culture, they can _____ and wish the bar mitzvah well with a _____.

Questions

- Why are the notes of Joseph's portion so challenging?
- When you do something scary, can it be fun, too? Why?
- Tell whether you think the mood of Joseph's speech is more
 - serious
 - funny
 - encouraging
 and why you think so: _____

- What is the theme of Joseph's Torah portion in your own words?
- Do you think Joseph really understands the important theme of his Torah portion? Why or why not?
- Is it hard to find good people in any crowd? What would you do to find a friendly face in a hostile crowd?
- In the following quote, explain Joseph's use of irony to be funny.

"I'll try to keep this short because I know that you're all looking forward to the upcoming fast for Yom Kippur, and you need lots of time to think about how hungry you'll be."

The Hat

Why is Chapter Seventeen entitled "Rain Hat"?

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of characterization and foreshadowing from context clues.

Vocabulary

- reception
- Tehrangeles
- modals
- undulate
- baba ganoush
- sovereign
- melee

Fill in the blanks:

Joseph's _____ was dominated by his family from _____, who enjoyed Middle Eastern foods like _____ and who caused a _____ at the dessert table because Uncle Eli ranted about Iran being a _____ country plundered by bigger countries. Middle Eastern dancing required a person to _____ the arms and hands to the music's _____.

Questions

- How does Joseph's cousin say the Persian Jews are different from American Jews?
- Do you think Joseph feels some resentment against Rabbi Rothstein? Why or why not?
- What does Joseph notice on Uncle Eli's hip? What was Shahla's comment about it?
- What is Joseph's real reason for asking Uncle Eli about the synagogue in Iran?
- How does Joseph's plan backfire?

6. Do you think Joseph's curiosity about the family secret is normal? What foreshadowing do you see in this chapter that something sinister happened?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Eighteen entitled "Hat Band"?

Enrichment Activity:

Media Resource: The *documentary, "A Tree of Life," on HBO, the deadliest ever attack on the US Jewish community.

*Parents and teachers should preview for age-appropriateness due to educational descriptions of violence on the synagogue.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of conflict from context clues.

Questions

1. Who is Fereshteh?
2. How does Joseph describe the new Persian immigrants?
3. What does Joseph think a new immigrant needs to help him or her fit in at a new school?
4. Do you think Joseph meant to hurt Fereshteh? Why do you think he said what he said?
5. Have you ever done something wrong, but then became angry with the person you hurt? If so, what did you do?
6. Have you ever accused someone of something, then realized later that you, too, were guilty of saying, doing, or thinking something similar?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Nineteen entitled "High Hat"?

Enrichment Activity:

Media Resource: Live and Become* (2005)

Movie Directed by Radu Mihaileanu

Written by Alain-Michel Blanc

Summary: Shlomo, an Ethiopian boy, is given by his Christian mother to a Jewish woman whose child has died. It is during Operation Moses in 1984, and his adoptive mother is about to be airlifted from a Sudanese refugee camp to Israel. Shlomo's birth mother, who hopes for a better life for him, tells him "Go, live, and become," as he leaves with his adoptive mother. The film tells of his growing up in Israel and how he deals with the secrets he carries and being a minority.

*Contains some profanity. Parents and teachers should preview for objectionable content.

CHAPTER TWENTY

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of foreshadowing from context clues.

Vocabulary

- repentance
- gesture
- site
- mehandes
- sedan

Fill in the blanks:

Yom Kippur is a holiday of _____ where one erases the sins of the past year and resolves to do better in the coming year. Baba can't drive a _____ to work because he must go on-_____ to do inspections for the oil company. Baba uses a _____ to let Joseph know it is okay to open his bar mitzvah gifts. It turns out that Baba and Maman's gifts are

to teach him responsibility and so he will accept becoming a _____ instead of a pilot.

Questions

1. Why do you suppose Joseph had to wait until after Yom Kippur to open his presents?
2. Do you think Baba and Joseph are as relaxed with one another as Maman and Shahla? What makes you think so?
3. Along with his parents' gifts, what change is expected of Joseph? Do you think it is fair?
4. Does Joseph really think anything will change?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty entitled "Crown Jewels"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of foreshadowing from context clues.

Questions

1. What is Shahla's parents' explanation of why she was left behind in California when the Nissans moved to Texas?
2. Does Joseph believe it? Do you?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-one entitled "The Drop Of A Hat"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of foreshadowing and symbolism from context clues.

Vocabulary

- baritone
- cleats
- begrudge
- usher

Fill in the blanks:

Miss Eleanor thinks that Joseph's _____ voice will _____ in a different time of life where he will need her less. She tells him that she will not _____ him this change to wearing _____ and learning to fly.

Questions

1. How does LaLa signal that someone has played the piano well?
2. What does LaLa predict will happen to her and Joseph's relationship? Is this:
 - a. characterization
 - b. plot
 - c. foreshadowing
 - d. symbolism
3. How do Joseph's spending habits change now that he has his own money?
4. What odd thing does Baba show Joseph in the investment office?
5. Baba gives Joseph a look to "cool it" in front of a stranger. Is this something most families do

when they disagree in public?

6. Miss Eleanor mentions Joseph's cleats and flying lessons. What do these two things symbolize to her?

a. cleats-

b. flying-

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-two entitled "Cap Funds"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify points of plot and motivation from context clues.

Questions

1. Does Joseph eat school cafeteria food? Why not?
2. Why does Joseph try to sound upbeat with Vonda?
3. Do you think Vonda's apology for what her father said is sincere?
4. What does Vonda admire about Joseph?
5. How do you think the lunch with Vonda will change Joseph's daily life?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-three entitled "Straw Hat"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify character motivation from context clues.

Vocabulary

- boycott
- tight end

Fill in the blanks:

A _____ is a player who may block for other players or catch passes. If the players went on a _____, they wouldn't show up for practice.

Questions

1. Why doesn't Joseph want to play on the offense as a tight end?
2. Why is Juan so polite to the defensive players?
3. Was Juan's warning was to Brian alone? Why or why not?
4. How does Juan's confrontation with Brian change the way Joseph is treated?
5. Did Juan act on his own when he stood up for Joseph, or was someone else involved? If someone else was involved, who was it?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-four entitled "Shower Cap"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify character motivation from context clues.

Questions

1. Describe Joseph's two-part plan to get revenge on Brian and Larry. Why doesn't he just fight them?
2. What does Joseph find out about Brian? Do you think he's surprised?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-five entitled "Hat Stand"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of characterization from context clues.

Vocabulary

- stamina

True or False?

A sprinter is fast, but a runner with stamina can run long distances.

Questions

1. Do Baba and Maman struggle to fit in at the football game? Do they understand how football is played?
2. Is Joseph concerned that they will stick out as being different?

3. Do you think it entered Joseph's mind not to block for Larry? Why?
4. If Joseph finds more ways to fit in at school, might he think less about getting revenge on Larry and Brian?
5. Find at least one simile in the chapter:

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-six entitled "Hard Hat"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify points of conflict from context clues.

Vocabulary

- Shah of Iran
- revolutionaries
- unflappable
- tether
- eavesdrop

Fill in the blanks:

The _____ wanted to get rid of the _____. Joseph had to _____ to find out why his _____ Maman was so upset. A problem with phones in the 70s is that they had a cord _____ attached to the wall unit.

Questions

1. What news has Maman so upset?
2. What clues does Joseph collect about Maman's anger toward the Shah of Iran?
3. What solution does Joseph overhear that he

doesn't want? Why do you think Joseph doesn't want this solution?

4. Identify a metaphor in the following sentence: "Baba took him to his own barber instead of letting Maman's stylist savage Joseph's black mop."

black mop = _____

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-seven entitled "Hat Dance"?

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify and match elements of cultural conflict from context clues.

Vocabulary

- gluteus maximus
- parsonage
- transgression
- ayatollah
- taarof
- gabbai

Match the vocabulary to its context by placing the correct letter in the blank:

- A sin or mistake is a _____.
- A Muslim religious authority is a _____.
- A Christian pastor might live in a _____.
- A synagogue official is called a _____.
- A person sits on his or her _____.

6. An Iranian may seem excessively courteous when using _____.

Questions

- How were the Dallas synagogue members different from the Nissans?
- Although people around the world might share the same religion, how does culture affect their religious experience?
- Why do you think the Nissans don't have a television?
- Do you think that the Iranian revolutionaries understood the consequences of their actions at the time they took the Americans hostage?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-seven entitled "Tip of the Hat?"

Enrichment Activity:

For enrichment, view the television program Farah Diba Pahlavi: The Last Empress. Interscience Film. 2018. France. Also research a few news articles on Mahsa Amini. Review your answer above. Are your answers to #2 and #4 above the same?

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of conflict, characterization, tone and mood from context clues.

Vocabulary

- earnestly
- Wailing Wall
- wadi
- Aravah

Fill in the blanks:

A _____ may be found in the _____, and people praying _____ may be found at the _____.

Tone and Mood Questions

Review your imagery manual for the definitions of tone and mood.

1. The author's tone toward this subject is _____. I think this because _____.
2. The chapter's mood is _____. I can tell because the author uses words or phrases like:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

Questions

1. Do you think the student who discussed the Iran hostage crisis in Joseph's Texas history class really cared about it as history? Why or why not?
2. Why does Joseph pester Baba to buy a television?
3. Why does Joseph admit he is Iranian in Texas history class?
4. Why is Joseph so enraged with Mrs. Draper? Do you think his rage is justified?
5. In the end, why does Joseph agree to stay in Mrs. Draper's class?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Twenty-nine entitled "Neighbor Hood"?

For Enrichment:

View the story of Iraqi Jews at <https://rememberbaghdad.com>. Do you think the Nissan family's concern about their relatives in Iran was reasonable? Do you think this history played a part in Joseph's reaction to Mrs. Draper and the class?

CHAPTER THIRTY

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of characterization, plot, and setting from context clues.

Vocabulary

- nonchalant
- yeshiva

Fill in the blanks:

Joseph used to like junior high better than being sent to a _____, but now he is no longer _____ about fitting in at Hazel Junior High.

Questions

1. How is the relationship between men and women different in Middle Eastern culture?
2. Is Joseph comfortable with this aspect of his parents' culture?
3. Is Joseph beginning to see something different in Mr. Ybarra than he did during the ice cream incident at the Greers'? What?
4. How is Mr. Ybarra's hat in this chapter different from the hat he wore in the first chapter?
5. Did the setting affect why Mr. Ybarra and his network of friends and family did what they did? Discuss.

6. Review the elements of plot. The events of this chapter are most likely (circle one):

- Exposition.
- Rising Action.
- Climax.
- Falling Action or Denouement.
- Conclusion.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty entitled "Toboggan"?

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify synecdoche and elements of characterization from context clues.

Questions

1. Who was Joseph quoting when he said, "I'm not angry. Mad people are crazy people. I'm not crazy"?
2. How could Joseph tell that Vonda had already decided to stop talking to him at school?
3. Are you a person who prefers to talk to your friends in person or write/text?
4. Do you think Joseph is a romantic, or is he just trying to find something to write to Vonda?
5. Does it surprise you that Vonda is willing to sneak out in order to meet Joseph?
6. Find an example of synecdoche in the chapter.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty One entitled "Handy Cap"?
Hint: Compare to the word "handicap."

Enrichment Activity:

In the sentences from Joseph's notes below, correct any spelling, grammar, or usage mistakes you see:

"Yeah, me to."

No. Not angry. Just dissappointed. I miss you."

The subject tonight is love. And for tomorrow night, to.

Saves me a lot of greif when they call roll the first time.

Heres another one.

Someone wrote something really bad on my locker, but the janiter allready got most of it off before I saw it."

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of conflict and tone from context clues.

Vocabulary

- banishment
- decree

Fill in the blanks:

When a person suffers official _____, it is usually done with a legal _____.

Questions

1. Is Maman really good at math? How can you tell?
2. Why do you think Joseph feels guilty when he lifts his chin at Maman?
3. Do you admire Joseph for setting the two

damaged apples down as gently as he did? Why or why not?

4. Do you think the manager really understood what Maman meant by “hurting apples”? If you were the manager, what would you have done?
5. Is it usually a problem at a checkout line if the cashier damages a product?
6. Has Baba has given Joseph too much responsibility, or is it about right? Would it make a difference if Maman spoke English well?
7. Does translating for someone create a conflict for the one translating? How?
8. What is the tone of the chapter? List five words or phrases below to support your answer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-Two entitled “Hat Shop”?

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of characterization and motivation from context clues.

Questions

1. Why does Baba seem to think that Hazel is still the best place for the Nissans to live?
2. Why do you think Baba is so strict about what

they watch on the new television?

3. Before the Iran hostage crisis, would Joseph have done anything about someone insulting him, putting trash in his locker, or jostling him on purpose in the hallway?
4. Why was it a big clue that the Posse didn't wear their long dusters or cowboy hats the day they jumped Joseph?
5. Who stops the fight? Are you surprised?
6. Mateo is the student council president, but do you think Roberto also exerts leadership? Why or why not?
7. Is there anything in this chapter that helps you to understand Larry better? If so, what?
8. Do you think the principals or teachers should have noticed things were this serious, or does bullying often occur without adults noticing?
9. Do you think racial or ethnic slurs usually precede violence?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-Three entitled “Black Hats”?

Enrichment activity for older readers:

View the movie *School Ties* (1992). Identify the main characters' motivations and discuss any similarities to anti-semitism found in Joseph's experience.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify elements of motivation and plot from context clues.

Questions

1. Do you think it was difficult for Joseph not to answer all the principals' questions?
2. Why do you suppose Baba didn't force him to talk?
3. Is Mr. Lamb is sincerely sorry that Joseph was beaten? Do you think it matters to Joseph whether Mr. Lamb is sincere or not? How can you tell?
4. Is there any evidence that Joseph is experiencing the effects of a concussion? If so, what?
5. Why does Joseph take responsibility for the fight?
6. Compare Joseph's behavior the day after the fight to his behavior the day of his bar mitzvah. What has changed?
7. Why are Mr. Lamb's options in handling the punishment limited? Do you think it's hard to develop a school policy on fighting that can deal with all situations?
8. At this point, do you think Baba would object if Joseph had told the truth of what happened?
9. Does Mateo's showing up to Detention with lots of students make Joseph feel better? Have you ever felt like you went through something difficult alone even when others tried to encourage you?
10. Why is Joseph forcing himself to be at school and not letting others know how badly he's hurt physically?
11. Identify the point in the plot that best describes this chapter by circling one:
 - Exposition.
 - Rising Action.
 - Climax.
 - Falling Action or Denouement.
 - Conclusion.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-Four called "White Hats"?

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify characterization clues from context and synthesize them to explain inner conflict and symbolism.

Vocabulary

- The Alamo
- Basque
- Tejano

Fill in the blanks:

There were _____ (s) descended from the _____ who helped defend _____ against Santa Anna's army.

Questions

1. Although Roberto intervened in stopping Joseph's beating, who seems to take the lead in solving the bigger problem?
2. In Mateo's speech to the student body, list three of the most important logical points he makes:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Which of these do you think is the most important one?
4. Mateo is usually the serious twin, but does he know how to use humor? How can you tell?
5. Mateo and Roberto are twins, but very different. How could they function as symbols in

Joseph's growth through his troubles? Explain.

The Hat

Why do you think Chapter Thirty-five is entitled "Capped"?

For Enrichment:

Find actual video footage of the Iran hostage crisis in 1979. Put yourself in the shoes of an American seeing those images. How would you feel? Now put yourself in the shoes of the Nissan family. How would you feel?

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

Lesson Objective:

The reader will order the elements of plot.

Arrange the following facts in order:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

A. Someone becomes jealous of Baba's position in the Iranian oil company.

B. Shahla's father and mother are killed in a car bomb.

C. Baba and Maman are pursued by the secret police, and they flee to England, and then to Los

Angeles.

D. Maman's brother, Shahla's father, gives away secrets about Iranian oil production.

E. The Shah's secret police find out that someone is giving away Iran's oil production secrets to foreign countries.

F. Baba finds a job as an oilfield engineer in Texas.

G. Baba has to work as a janitor in Los Angeles.

H. Shahla is given up for adoption to an elderly couple in Los Angeles.

I. Baba attends university in England.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-Six entitled "The Drop Of A Hat"?

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

Lesson Objective:

The reader will correctly use a homophone as a play-on word and identify different characters' motivations in this chapter..

Questions

1. Fill in the blank with the correct spelling of the homophone:

_____ canon

_____ cannon

A _____ is a huge weapon, but a _____ musical technique.

2. What was Joseph's motivation in preparing the tree house date?

3. What was Vonda's motivation in going on the

tree house date?

4. What is Reverend Baer's motivation in being so strict with Vonda?

5. What is Reverend Baer's motivation in being hostile to Joseph and his family?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-Seven entitled "Hat Trick"?

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT

Lesson Objective:

The reader will locate and contribute context cues to characters' motivations and setting.

Questions

1. If Detective White had first addressed Baba about Maman staying to answer questions, would it have been less awkward?

2. Which law enforcement officer seems to have the best understanding of the Shabbat?

3. What does Joseph mistakenly think the policemen have come for?

4. Is Joseph completely terrified of being in trouble, or are there clues he is keeping a cool head? Support your answer.

5. Why is Joseph not thrilled now at the opportunity to take revenge on the Edmondson cousins?

6. Without using a dictionary or search tool, tell what you think it means to "save face."

7. How does the setting influence what happens in this chapter?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-Eight entitled Hats Off?

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify the main theme in the chapter.

1. The chapter's main theme is:

a. Vonda doesn't take up for Joseph when he's attacked by Reverend Baer.

b. Joseph is challenged in being able to trust others and taking adult responsibility.

c. Joseph still has hope that he and Vonda can get back together.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Thirty-nine entitled "Bottle Cap"?

CHAPTER FORTY

Lesson Objective:

The reader will select context clues that establish the mood of Chapter Forty.

Questions

1. The mood of Chapter Forty might be described as introspective. List some facts from the chapter that support this:

a.

b.

c.

2. Do you think that everyone goes through similar cycles of life?

3. What is a challenge you have when trying to

understand your parents?

4. Is Baba making an effort to help Joseph understand the life decisions Baba made?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Forty entitled "Cycling Helmet"?

CHAPTER FORTY-ONE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will locate and identify context clues that form characterization.

From each character in the character list, select a trait and identify an example sentence that demonstrates how that character can be described: fair, trustworthy, wise, loyal, popular, responsible, distant, persistent. You may suggest your own character traits as well.

Character	Trait(s)	Example Sentence
Joseph		
Larry		
Mateo		
Roberto		
LaLa		

The Hat

Why is Chapter Forty-one entitled "Pill-Box Hat"?

CHAPTER FORTY-TWO

Lesson Objective:

The reader will define vocabulary that contributes

to setting and arrange elements of plot in Chapter Forty-two.

Vocabulary

- leaven
- Passover
- Nissan

Fill in the blanks:

The week-long holiday of _____ falls in the Biblical month of _____. During the week, Jews make sure _____ is removed from the home, and they don't eat foods made with it.

Arrange the following elements of plot in chronological order:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.
 - 11.
 - 12.
 - 13.
- a. Reverend Baer and the grownup Posse confront Baba in the front yard.
 - b. A man attacks Baba with a baseball bat.
 - c. Joseph finds out that Baba has already visited

the police station about Reverend Baer and prepared a legal complaint which he hasn't yet signed.

d. Maman removes all the leavened products from their home and apartment to prepare for Passover.

e. Officer Oliver drives up and confronts Reverend Baer and the Posse.

f. Baba and Joseph hide their leavened snacks from Maman.

g. Reverend Baer and the Posse leave the Nissans' home.

h. Mr. Ybarra approaches with a tire iron and tells the Posse they should be ashamed.

i. Shahla flies home to California.

j. Joseph realizes Baba has spotted a car following them to Hazel.

k. Baba tells the Posse that he's already planned to defend Joseph even if he has to go to jail.

l. Baba disarms the man with the baseball bat and breaks his wrist.

m. The Nissans celebrate Passover at that Dallas apartment.

The Hat

Why is Chapter Forty-two entitled "The Hat In The Ring"?

CHAPTER FORTY-THREE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will describe motivation as an element of characterization.

Questions

1. Why has Baba chosen this time to reveal the family secret to Joseph?

2. Why do you think Maman doesn't want Joseph to know the secret?

3. Why do you think Joseph wanted to know the secret? Is Joseph satisfied now that he knows it?

The Hat

Why is Chapter Forty-three entitled "Newsboy Cap"?

CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify conflict and resolution as elements of plot.

Each person in the Nissan family or connected to them faced conflicts in the story. From this chapter or another, name at least one conflict and the resolution for each:

Character	Conflict	Resolution
Joseph		
Maman		
Baba		
Vonda		
Miss Eleanor		
Larry		
Mateo		

The Hat

Why is Chapter Forty-four entitled "Hang Up Your Hat"?

For Enrichment:

Baba Joon is a 2015 Israeli drama film directed by Yuval Delshad. Pick two characters from the movie and add them to the empty spaces in the chart above.

CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE

Lesson Objective:

The reader will identify theme and rank plot points to demonstrate characterization.

Questions

Consider Joseph's thoughts about his experiences over the year:

“People change. Some for better, some for worse. When people change, things change. That’s the shining sun and the star-blue sky. That’s the danger and the night boos. And that’s the burden.”

1. Joseph's thoughts best represent (check one):

- _____ tone
- _____ plot
- _____ theme
- _____ conflict

2. Rank the following events according to how much each one contributed to Youssef's character development in your opinion, from greatest (1) influence to least (11) influence.

- _____ a. finding out he could play football well
- _____ b. performing well at his bar mitzvah
- _____ c. realizing how badly he'd treated Fereshteh and how much he'd disappointed

Shahla

- _____ d. refusing to snitch out the Posse to protect Baba from the police
- _____ e. Mateo sticking up for him at the school assembly
- _____ f. Vonda's rejection
- _____ g. realizing Larry's father would go to jail
- _____ h. refusing to run away from Reverend Baer
- _____ i. finding out the secret of why his parents fled Iran
- _____ j. defying his father and mother to play in Miss Eleanor's recital
- _____ k. playing the piano the last time for Miss Eleanor

3. The famous Persian poet Rumi wrote this: “Maybe you are seeking among the branches what may only be found in the roots.” Relate this to Joseph's decisions.

For Enrichment:

Rank the following factors, from most (1) to least (6) influential, that influence the friends you make. Do you think it is pretty much the same for everyone? Why or why not? Discuss.

- _____ a. skin color/ethnicity
- _____ b. religion
- _____ c. family ties
- _____ d. common interests such as sports, hobbies, music
- _____ e. something that can't be explained in words, a soul connection of acceptance
- _____ f. something else
- _____

ANSWER KEY

CHAPTER ONE

Vocabulary:

The Ybarras are Tejanos, and Joseph's Maman and Baba are from Persia where sharbet is enjoyed as a frozen treat.

Questions

1. Iran
2. Farsi or Persian
3. Persia
4. Answers will vary, but will probably include that Baba doesn't stand up for himself when people insult him.
5. Answers will vary

The Hat

Suggested: To Joseph, Larry looks like a cat wearing a dirty ballcap.

Questions

1. dark or brown because he is Persian, from the Middle East
2. Answers will vary, but should expand upon "yes."
3. Cursing in Hebrew and Arabic
4. Los Angeles, California
5. The literature, the cherry trees, and holidays
6. Suggestions:

"She gripped a huge pair of pruning shears like she had a steer by the horns."

"Your father was white as a sheet when she parked in the driveway."

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph and LaLa talk about when he was young and wore his Baba's construction hat or LaLa "constructs" an answer to Joseph's concern about Baba.

CHAPTER TWO

Vocabulary:

LaLa lives in a stately home and likes to play a waltz on the piano. Her husband Mr. Thaddeus was a bookish man. Baba uses lots of Persian expressions, like "dirt on my head" when he is frustrated.

1. antithesis
2. characterization
3. theme

CHAPTER THREE

Vocabulary:

Sometimes LaLa can't tell whether Joseph is reading the music or playing by ear.

At his bar mitzvah, Joseph is afraid he'll shame himself or his parents.

Shabbat is a special day for Joseph's family each week, and there are things to consider in order to preserve how special it is.

Questions

1. Answers will vary.
2. Stories about their moms' attempts to speak and understand English.
3. Answers will vary, but the instructor may point out that in Middle Eastern countries, men spend more time in public and usually have better foreign language skills.
4. Shahla's parents were killed in a car bomb in Israel. They are cousins.
5. Shahla and Joseph try to guess what the other is thinking.
6. foreshadowing

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph thinking about Maman being "blue" about not adopting Shahla or Joseph describing life in Texas, represented by the bluebonnet, its state flower.

CHAPTER FOUR

Vocabulary:

LaLa doesn't enjoy it when it sounds like her students are typing an obituary on the piano keys when they practice for a recital. When Miss LaNell scolds LaLa for letting Joseph hang around on Saturdays and makes an offensive remark about Jews, LaLa corrects her by quoting from the King James. Sometimes LaLa adds emphasis to her statements by pushing her spectacles higher on her nose. Rather than become upset at Miss LaNell's criticism, Joseph cleverly plays a song that provides solace for an old heartache.

Questions

1. They are both from the Middle East.
2. Jews
3. Answers will vary.

4. She senses Baba's objection to Joseph's piano-playing.

5. creak, whoosh-squish

The Hat

Suggested: Miss LaNell thinks Joseph's kippah is a "funny hat," or strange, or Joseph makes a joke about Miss LaNell thinking he wants to steal her purse.

CHAPTER FIVE

Vocabulary:

Joseph has a taste for halvah on Shabbat, and sometimes he takes treats to LaLa's for her piano students. Vonda notices Joseph is wearing a kippah when he helps her because she bungles playing a chord. She is impressed with Joseph's elocution, and he makes her laugh by playing a honky-tonk ending to the song.

Questions

1. To solve them.
2. He doesn't eat dairy and meat together; he doesn't eat from dishes where dairy and meat have touched; he wears a kippah.
3. No. Answers will vary, but probably because it makes him feel different than other Texans.
4. Playing an instrument on Shabbat or touching a girl.
5. Not as much time at Miss Eleanor's house.
6. "The phone clacked down into its cradle."

The Hat

Suggested: The incident with Reverend Baer makes Joseph think about why the reverend is different from other Christians he knows.

CHAPTER SIX

Vocabulary:

Shahla's baba supplies snack foods for concessions at sporting events. Her baba sometimes obtains gifts from his customers, so he is able to find caps or tickets that are elusive to Joseph. Shahla and Joseph tell one another funny stories about Persian politeness, which is called taarof. Maman makes a funny comment about the Shah of Iran, who is like a king.

Questions

1. Yes. They know what the other is thinking.
2. Shahla threatened to tell her mother that her father checked her out of school to go to the horse races and had taught her how to bet on horse races.

The Hat

Suggested: Shahla has obtained baseball caps for Joseph and his friends as gifts.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Vocabulary:

In the 70s, puka-shells were popular jewelry, but Goat Ropers liked to wear long dusters and boots.

Questions

1. A group that likes to wear long rain dusters and big cowboy hats.
2. He's always hung out with the Hispanics.
3. He likes her blonde hair and kind, blue eyes that are like a smile.
4. Answers will vary, but should assume the answer is yes.
5. Answers will vary.

6. In the wintertime, the Posse liked to wear long, cowboy-style dusters, but they'd melt like a chocolate bar in a hot car in this late summer heat.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph realized one of the bullies was watching him.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Vocabulary:

Someone might mistake a kippah for a doily because it is round. An object that is muktzeh is not permitted to be carried on Shabbat because it violates the holiness of the day.

Questions

1. No. Many of the instructions of Judaism are hard to keep outside the Jewish community.
2. Yes.
3. The bullies destroyed LaLa's groceries.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Joseph's only hope is that his father will understand that he was helping a widow.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph's kippah contributed to the fight.

CHAPTER NINE

Vocabulary:

An engineer knows how to design practical things by using a blueprint, but a motreb is a musician who entertains. A dhimmi in certain countries is expected to pay a special tax if he or she is a minority religion. Havdalah closes out the Shabbat and opens a new week for Jews. A

special Iranian drink that may be enjoyed any day of the week is doogh.

Questions

1. He is supposed to pray with Baba to prepare for his bar mitzvah.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Suggested: No, because he is crying.
4. Suggested: Yes, and answers will vary.
5. He must spend less time at Miss Eleanor's and no more piano playing.
6. A varsity football jersey was a Hollywood Star in Texas.

The Hat

Suggested: Baba is trying to pass on Persian Jewish responsibilities to Joseph.

CHAPTER TEN

Questions

1. Immigrant children tend to have activities revolving around their families, whereas American families tend to revolve around their children's activities.
2. Joseph is still angry and upset about being in the fight with the bullies.
3. Joseph sees a way to get back at the bullies by joining the football team where he can tackle them.
4. "A black eye was a badge of honor, and Joseph's dodgeball win lent him renewed star status."

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph wins the dodgeball game.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Vocabulary:

If I were trying to put a hat on your head, I might tell you that Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin were in my Contacts.

Questions

1. Football players in Texas had star status, and it would give him a chance to tackle Brian and Larry without getting in trouble with Baba.
2. Joseph agrees to keep his English grades up and no playing on Shabbat.
3. She might have the numbers of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin if one looked under "H" and "A."

The Hat

Suggested: It was difficult to get Maman to sign the paperwork so Joseph could play football.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Vocabulary:

A culvert allows water to flow from place to place. A Posted area is off-limits.

Questions

1. One of the Edmonsons was held back a grade, and the other one was held back with him.
2. Mateo is a little bigger and acts more mature, and Roberto is smaller and always looking for fun.
3. Mr. Ybarra is a rancher, horse trainer, mechanic, and landscaper.
4. Jumping hills with Joseph.
5. They plan to sneak back in the night, repair the

bike, and then sneak back home.

6. The Ybarras owned eighty acres on the outskirts of town where oil pumps slowly dipped like giant, hungry, steel hummingbirds.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph and Roberto get into a difficult situation while they're wearing dirtbike helmets.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Questions

1. Joseph thinks he's entitled to a little mischief because he has so many extra rules to follow as a Jew.
2. Yes. The birds scare him, and he keeps thinking of boos in the dark.
3. Joseph doesn't tell Roberto how the birds scare him, and Joseph crawls into the grass first.
4. They see the Edmondson cousins' dads.
5. Sneaking out of the house, especially on a school night, is much worse than getting bugs on you.
6. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

The Hat

Suggested: The action in the chapter takes place at night.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Vocabulary:

Oy veh is not an expression that one usually hears from someone wearing a bolo tie or driving a

dually truck.

If the electricity goes out, then it is possible to power things with a generator.

Questions

1. They were storing drugs.
2. He thinks Larry may have been digging in the drug stash basement.
3. Joseph knows how badly his baba fears the police.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Mateo makes responsible decisions.
6. "Ticks traveled inside your clothes and went up to the penthouse suite" is personification because ticks aren't people and don't live in penthouses.

The Hat

Suggested: The Edmondsons changed into cowboy hats.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Vocabulary:

Joseph's bar mitzvah falls near the holidays of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Those who are attending must respond to their invitations with an RSVP. At the ceremony, Joseph will use cantillation to sing the haftara. Afterward, the guests are treated to kosher Persian tahdig.

Questions

1. Joseph wants to know why his parents left Iran.
2. Uncle Eli.
3. Forgetting the tunes of the cantillation.
4. There will be Persian food and music.
5. No.

6. Yes.
7. Answers will vary, but should reflect that the ladder represents Shahla's support for Joseph.

The Hat

Suggested: Shahla is a reassuring force for Joseph in his preparations.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Vocabulary:

Joseph's tallit went over his shoulders, and the tefillin were bound on his arm and head before he went to the bimah where he would read from the scroll written on parchment. Afterward, he walked around the synagogue with the scroll and noticed Shahla's long hair bound into a chignon.

1. c.
2. "He slid a silver pointer down the Hebrew letters flowing like an inky black river across the pale parchment."
3. Tunes and words don't swim or need rescue like people.

Questions

1. Shahla helps Joseph sing to practice, teases him, and tells him she's going to throw candy at him hard.
2. The Preamble to the Constitution.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
5. A new girl. She is very pretty, and there weren't many Brown Jews in Texas.

The Hat

Suggested: There was a crown placed on the Torah scroll, and for Joseph, the bar mitzvah is like wearing a crown of royalty.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Vocabulary:

The activities at Joseph's bar mitzvah were not like the recitals usually played in Miss Eleanor's parlor. Persian Jewish women will ululate at special occasions, and parents might give their children a gooshmali for disobedience. Even if guests are not familiar with the culture, they can play it by ear and wish the bar mitzvah well with a mazal tov.

Questions

1. The notes required a range difficult for Joseph's changing voice.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.
7. No one wants extra time to think about being hungry.

The Hat

Suggested: Candy rained down on Joseph after his successful reading of the Torah.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Vocabulary:

Joseph's reception was dominated by his family from Tehrangeles, who enjoyed Middle Eastern foods like baba ganoush and who caused a melee at the dessert table because Uncle Eli ranted about Iran being a sovereign country plundered by bigger countries. Middle Eastern dancing required a person to undulate the arms and hands to the

music's modals.

Questions

1. At synagogue, they celebrate loudly, arrive late, and are chatty.
2. Yes. He thinks Rabbi Rothstein is nosy.
3. A gun. Being Jewish and being in a synagogue are dangerous things.
4. Joseph is trying to find out information about why his parents left Iran.
5. Uncle Eli makes a big scene.
6. Yes. Perhaps that the Israelis are cautiously guarding the bar mitzvah.

The Hat

Suggested: The band plays Persian music for the reception.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

Questions

1. A visitor and new immigrant from Iran.
2. FOB, or Fresh Off the Boat. They are stressed, uncertain, and trying to adjust to America.
3. Something she can do well that other students would value.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph is on a high from success, or Joseph snubbed Fereshteh.

CHAPTER TWENTY

Vocabulary:

Yom Kippur is a holiday of repentance where one erases the sins of the past year and resolves to do better in the coming year. Baba can't drive a sedan to work because he must go on-site to do inspections for the oil company. Baba uses a gesture to let Joseph it's okay to open his bar mitzvah gifts. It turns out that Baba and Maman's gifts are to teach him responsibility and so he will accept becoming a mehandes instead of a pilot.

Questions

1. Answers will vary, but emphasize that the solemnity of Yom Kippur takes precedence over birthday celebrations.
2. Answers will vary.
3. He must start doing more responsible things and stop playing piano. Answers will vary.
4. No.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph opened the rewards of a job well done and taking on bigger responsibilities.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Questions

1. The family didn't think it was safe for her to go with Aunt Miriam to Texas.
2. No. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: The drop of a hat is something that happens quickly, and Shahla hangs up on Joseph when he brings up how her parents were killed.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

Vocabulary:

Miss Eleanor thinks that Joseph's baritone voice will usher in a different time of life where he will need her less. She tells him that she will not begrudge him this change to wearing cleats and learning to fly.

Questions

1. She raps her hand on something.
2. That Joseph will visit her less. Foreshadowing.
3. Joseph is more thrifty with his own money.
4. A map with branches of the investment company and airports marked.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Suggested:
 - a. cleats-walking away from childhood things
 - b. flying-flying toward adulthood

The Hat

Suggested: The chapter focuses on how Baba has Joseph invest his bar mitzvah funds for the future, or Baba "capped" how much money Joseph could keep for personal spending from his bar mitzvah money.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

Questions

1. No. He has to eat kosher food his Maman cooks.
2. Because no one likes being around sad people. He wants to impress her.
3. Answers will vary.
4. She likes how nice he dresses and his kippah, and that he drinks from a straw instead of guzzling from the carton. He's more dignified.
5. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Vonda appreciates that Joseph drinks from a straw instead of guzzling from the carton.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

Vocabulary:

A tight end is a player who may block for other players or catch passes. If the players went on a boycott, they wouldn't show up for practice.

Questions

1. Joseph wants to play defense so he can tackle the Edmondsons.
2. He's really scaring them.
3. No. He made sure everyone else could hear, including Larry.
4. It stops the Edmondsons' harassment at school.
5. Answers will vary, but a clue from a previous chapter indicated Mateo intended to do something about Brian's harassment of Joseph. Mateo probably talked to Juan.

The Hat

Suggested: The confrontation in the shower changes how Joseph is treated by the Edmondsons.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Questions

1. Joseph wants to tackle Brian first, then Larry really hard to get them back. He doesn't just fight them because he doesn't want to get in trouble at school, which would make his father angry.
2. Brian sells drugs. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph takes a stand for himself on the field.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

Vocabulary:

True

Questions

1. Yes. No.
2. Yes.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
5. It was an exquisite hopelessness for Joseph to see, like peach sharbet melting on pavement.

#46 would flatten Larry like a steamroller

Here came #46 like a cannonball.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph has to do something really hard to help win the game.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

Vocabulary:

The revolutionaries wanted to get rid of the Shah of Iran. Joseph had to eavesdrop to find out why his unflappable Maman was so upset. A problem with phones in the 70s is that they had a cord tether attached to the wall unit.

Questions

1. The Shah of Iran is coming to America.
2. Maman accused one of her relatives of having a hand in starting all the trouble; she worried that the Shah's government still had some power that might harm the Nissans in America.
3. Joseph overhears a suggestion that he and Maman go to Israel. He doesn't want to go because he's doing so well in sports, he's learning to fly, he has a new dirtbike, and he doesn't want to leave Vonda.
4. black mop = hair

The Hat

Suggested: Maman is so upset she is dancing around the kitchen with the phone, or Maman is dancing around the truth of the mystery of why they left Iran and don't like the Shah. Alex also mentions the hat dance.

CHAPTER TWENTY- EIGHT

Vocabulary

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. f
5. a
6. e

Questions

1. The other members of the synagogue were of European descent.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Suggested: religious reasons
4. Answers will vary

The Hat

Suggested: The situation in Iran reached a tipping point, or Joseph's understanding finally "tips" to understand his baba, or Baba is courteous like someone who tips his hat.

CHAPTER TWENTY- NINE

Vocabulary:

A wadi may be found in the Aravah, and people praying earnestly may be found at the Wailing Wall.

Tone and Mood:

Answers will vary

Questions

1. Answers will vary.
2. Joseph pesters Baba for a television because he wants to watch the news.
3. Joseph admits he's Iranian because he's upset at the hostility toward a place where he has relatives living and because Maman prays for those relatives so earnestly.
4. Joseph is enraged at Mrs. Draper because she's misrepresented what happened. Answers to justification will vary.
5. Joseph agrees to stay in Mrs. Draper's class because he doesn't want to involve his parents. His father has forbidden him to discuss the crisis.

The Hat

Suggested: The hostages were hooded, or Joseph has to "hood" his emotions, or Joseph's classmates are acting like hoods.

CHAPTER THIRTY

Vocabulary:

Joseph used to like junior high better than being sent to a yeshiva, but now he is no longer nonchalant about fitting in at Hazel Junior High.

Questions

1. Women in the Middle East did not touch or interact much with men who are not family.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Yes. Courage.
4. He's not wearing the cowboy work hat, but a toboggan.
5. Answers will vary, but suggest from Mateo's conversation with Joseph that sometimes Hispanics experience trouble, too.

6. Rising Action

The Hat

Mr. Ybarra is wearing a toboggan when he comes to protect the Nissans.

CHAPTER THIRTY- ONE

Questions

1. Miss Eleanor
2. The first line of her note said that she was going to miss having lunch with him.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Your heart and my heart are very, very old friends. Heart stands for whole.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph's communication with Vonda becomes handicapped.

Enrichment Activity:

"Yeah, me too."

No. Not angry. Just disappointed. I miss you."

The subject tonight is love. And for tomorrow night, too.

Saves me a lot of grief when they call roll the first time.

Here's another one.

Someone wrote something really bad on my locker, but the janitor already got most of it off before I saw it."

CHAPTER THIRTY- TWO

Vocabulary:

When a person suffers official banishment, it is usually done with a legal decree.

Questions

1. Yes. She can add up the costs for all her groceries without a calculator.
2. He's younger than she is and his mother, so it's disrespectful.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Yes.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Yes. The translator may want to protect one of the people he's translating for.
8. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Grocery shopping led to the conflict in the grocery store.

CHAPTER THIRTY- THREE

Questions

1. Baba thinks Hazel is safer because it's a small town, and outsiders stand out.
2. For religious reasons.
3. Yes.
4. They didn't wear hats or coats because they already planned to jump Joseph, and the extra

clothes would be a hindrance.

5. Larry.
6. Yes. He was able to draw other Hispanics around Joseph to protect him.
7. Answers will vary, but should be based on a “yes” answer.
8. Answers will vary.
9. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: The Posse Comitatus had evil intent.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

Questions

1. Probably yes.
2. Answers will vary, but perhaps allowing Joseph to make a grownup decision.
3. Yes. No. Answers will vary.
4. Yes. He has trouble concentrating.
5. Joseph takes responsibility so Mr. Lamb won't call the police.
6. Answers will vary, but now Joseph is more concerned about someone else's well-being than his own.
7. School policy. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.
9. No. Answers will vary.
10. Answers will vary.
11. Rising action

The Hat

Suggested: Mateo and Mr. Lamb have good intentions to change how the students think about Joseph.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

Vocabulary:

There were Tejano (s) descended from the Basque who helped defend The Alamo against Santa Anna's army.

Questions

1. Mateo
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Yes. He makes the students laugh about Roberto and Joseph's practical jokes.
5. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Mateo was able to cap the bad behavior toward Joseph.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

Questions

1. I
2. D
3. A
4. E
5. C

6. G
7. B
8. H
9. F

The Hat

Suggested: Baba drops new information about their escape from Iran and why they didn't adopt Shahla.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

1. A cannon is a huge weapon. A canon is a music technique.
2. Joseph wants to be alone with Vonda and give her his football jersey.
3. Vonda wants to terminate her friendship with Joseph.
4. Reverend Baer wants to protect Vonda from gossip and from the trouble Vonda's sister went through.
5. Reverend Baer wants the church and the town to think he's an upstanding man.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph uses Roberto's jacket and helmet to hide Vonda's identity while they ride, or Vonda pulls a "hat trick," switching from the reason Joseph thought she went with him to the real reason.

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT

Questions

1. Yes.
2. Troy Bender
3. Joseph thinks Reverend Baer called the police because he took Vonda to the treehouse.
4. Joseph is not completely terrified. He's worried that the officers will eat the Shabbat cookies.
5. Joseph isn't thrilled about taking revenge on the Edmondsons because now he understands why they act the way they do and that their fathers will no longer be present for important things. He also remembers the words of his prayer.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Shabbat affects where the interview takes place.

The Hat

Suggested: Secrets of who people are or what they are doing are exposed.

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE

The chapter's main theme is b:

Joseph is challenged in being able to trust others and taking adult responsibility.

The Hat

Suggested: The situation with Vonda and Reverend Baer has reached a bottleneck with no way to avoid confrontation. Their conversation was uncapped, or exposed.

CHAPTER FORTY

1. a. Answers will vary.

b. Answers will vary.

c. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

3. Answers will vary.

4. Yes

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph is going through one of the cycles of life that everyone must go through.

CHAPTER FORTY- ONE

Answers will vary

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph sees Brian being arrested for possessing/selling drugs.

CHAPTER FORTY- TWO

Vocabulary:

The week-long holiday of Passover falls in the Biblical month of Nissan. During the week, Jews make sure leaven is removed from the home, and they don't eat foods made with it.

1. d

2. f

3. m

4. i

5. j

6. a

7. k

8. b

9. l

10. h

11. e

12. c

13. g

The Hat

Suggested: Throwing one's hat in the ring is an idiom for entering the fight; in this case, Baba throws his hat in, and Reverend Baer's gang abandons the fight.

CHAPTER FORTY- THREE

Questions

1. Joseph has stood by Baba in a conflict, and Baba thinks Joseph is growing up, perhaps that he can handle adult information and understand the family's choices.

2. Maman probably doesn't want Joseph to know what Baba had to do, and perhaps she is not ready for Joseph to grow up that much or lose his innocence.

3. Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Joseph has just learned the news about his family history that he has been longing to know.

CHAPTER FORTY- FOUR

Answers will vary.

The Hat

Suggested: Hanging up one's hat is to complete a task, stage, or job. For Joseph, he is hanging up his piano-playing hat and part of his childhood in order to wear the hat of a Jewish man.

CHAPTER FORTY- FIVE

1. Joseph's thoughts best represent theme.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.