Finding Family Treasure

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Discussion Questions by Chapter

Chapter 1 – Why do you think the story starts with an argument between Mike and Robbie?

Chapter 2 – How do you know when and where the story takes place?

Chapter 3 – What kind of relationship do you think Robbie has with his brother?

Chapter 4 – What do we know about Manuel's family?

Chapter 5 – Why does Ms. Johansson refer to America as a melting pot?

Chapter 6 – Why do you think Manuel was friendly to the girl with long black hair when many of the other students were not?

Chapter 7 – Why do you think Mike was nervous to learn about his biological family?

Chapter 8 – Why do you think much of our documented history is recorded orally and not in writing?

Chapter 9 – Do you think people should focus only on the good things that happened to their ancestors?

Chapter 10 – Do you agree with Maria's advice to ignore Henry when he threw the egg at them?

Chapter 11 – Do you think history becomes more interesting if you have a personal connection to an event or a place?

Chapter 12 – Why do you think Robbie is such a bully?

Chapter 13 – Can you name some of the reasons why a birth certificate is important?

Chapter 14 – Why do you think Robbie does not want to fill out the Family History Worksheet?

Chapter 15 – Do you have special memories of doing things with your grandmother or grandfather?

Chapter 16 – Do you think you can understand history better when you visit an historic place? Why?

Chapter 17 – Do you agree with Ms. Johansson when she says, "... it's essential that we remember the bad things that occurred so they will never happen again."?

Chapter 18 – Have you ever been nervous about meeting a relative or an adult?

Chapter 19 – Why was Mike excited to learn about his ancestors?

Chapter 20 – Why do you think so many immigrants settled in places where there were other people there from their home country?

Chapter 21 – Does anyone in your family cook family recipes that have been handed down for generations?

Chapter 22 – Name several differences between Maria and Henry.

Chapter 23 – Why do you think the authors described a large black crow staring menacingly at the boys when the approached the graveyard?

Chapter 24 – Is “buzzing like a beehive” a simile or a metaphor?

Chapter 25 – Why is it important to check for copyright restrictions when using information from another source?

Chapter 26 – Why do you think Robbie’s father didn’t want to talk about his mother?

Chapter 27 – Can you name some traditions that are similar in different cultures?

Chapter 28 – Do you think it was a good idea for Robbie to invite his grandpa to the Thankful for my Family program?

Chapter 29 – Why do you think David kept his ability to play the violin a secret from his classmates?

Chapter 30 – Do you think sharing photographs of family members and events was a good part of the students’ presentation during the Thankful for My Family event?

Chapter 31 – Can you identify an example of irony in Chapter 31?

Chapter 32 – Describe Thanksgiving dinner with your family.

Chapter 33 – Do you think it’s important to preserve cemeteries? Why?

Chapter 34 – Do you think doing the family history project, the Thankful for My Family program, and the cemetery clean-up have made an impression on the students in Ms. Johansson’s class?