

Literature Circles Discussion Questions

Chapters 1– 2

- 1) What motivated Tadashi to say that he was Canadian at that time? Did Tadashi have other ways he could have reacted? Why did he choose to say something?
- 2) What motivates people to name call? Why do people stereo-type? Is name calling part of your culture?
- 3) Do you think people should carry guns around today? How about during the time of war?
- 4) Why are the guards so suspicious of Jedediah?

Chapter 3

- 5) What do you suppose the life of a fighter pilot was really like? Why does Jed's mother not believe the content of the letter from Jed's father?
- 6) Why was there an army base in Prince Rupert anyway?
- 7) If the dad is Canadian, why is he fighting in Europe?
- 8) Who were Canada's enemies and who were it's allies during the war?
- 9) In your opinion was Jed's dad fighting for a good reason?

Chapter 4 - 5

- 10) Why did the author recognize the eagle's story as an important one to tell? Why not a story about a rabbit or a sparrow?
- 11) Why do the elders in Tadashi's community talk about who the kids should marry ? Why do you think it comes up in the novel?

Chapter 6

- 12) Reread pages 72-73. How does Smitty view elders? What nationality do you think Smitty is? Are these things connected? How did Smitty change his tune after he realized that his words had been heard?
- 13) Do you agree with Bart's analysis of 'native' people? How about 'white' people?
- 14) What is a stereo-type?

Chapter 7

- 15) Why was Major Brown so delighted with Jed's answer, " It wouldn't be right for me to give you an answer without knowing more." ? Was this a usual answer for a teenager?
- 16) Do you think Major Brown is a good leader? Is he a good character? Are the two onnected?
- 17) Why do you suppose the Major has called in George Star, the Tsimshian Elder, to meet with him about the group fight?
- 18) Why is Major Brown inviting Jed? He's just a kid.
- 19) What different approach do Major Brown and Jedediah's mother have regarding the serving of pie at the meeting? How did Major Brown react to her point of view? Were their different styles cultural?
- 20) Do you like Major Brown's character? How about Jedediah's mother? How do authors get you to like their characters?
- 21) What is ironic about Naomi yelling, "Hey Major! Can you bring another cup of coffee-black- plenty of sugar!" ? (page 88)
- 22) How do you think Major Brown is feeling when he commented to George Star, "The Commander left. You are almost an hour late." (page 89) How about George? Why?
- 23) Who is responsible for the people drinking ?
- 24) Do you agree with George or the Major that the Aboriginal People had already been invaded 100 years earlier? What do you know about that?
- 25) Should Major Brown be worried about what's going on in Asia? What about George Bush worrying about what's going on in Iraq? Are the situations similar or not? What is your philosophy about war? What is your philosophy about involvement of other countries?
- 26) Do you think Major Brown was disrespectful?
- 27) Why does George talk about the eagle that he sees in the yard? What significance does this conversation have?
- 28) What different beliefs do George Star and Major Brown have around problem solving? How do you think this problem could best be solved?