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Incoming Grade 7 - Summer Reading Questions

Directions:

- 1) Please answer each question in full sentences. (Restate the question.)
- 2) Please make sure to write the chapter numbers and number your answers.
- 3) Many questions have multiple parts. Be sure to read each question carefully and answer it completely.

Prologue/Introduction

- 1) How does the narrator describe the sticky notes on the locker?
- 2) "There was a war. This was where it ended" (Anderson 2). What do you think happened?
- 3) "I know what you are going to say: sticks, stones, and broken bones, but words can kick you in the gut" (Anderson 2). How does the narrator describe hurtful words? Do you agree with the narrator? Why or why not?

The Catalyst

1. The chapter is titled "The Catalyst". What is a catalyst?
2. What do we find out about the character Ruby Sandels?
3. How does the narrator describe his hometown? Why does he feel this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Why does the narrator say that Ruby is a catalyst?
5. What do we discover about the narrator's father? Do you think this has impacted the narrator's life? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. What does Eric's mom believe about finding friends? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. What text message did Ruby send? Why did she send the message?
8. "I mean, she's entitled to her opinion, right?" (Anderson 16). Do you think Ruby was entitled to say the things that she said? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
9. Who were Eric's friends? How did they characterize each other?
10. "My people. The ones I found. The ones I counted on for everything" (Anderson 19). How do you think friendships will play a role in this novel? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Crackdown

1. What is Eric's theory of socio-magnetic homogeny? Do you agree with this theory? Use evidence to support your answer.
2. What do Eric's friends all have in common? Is this really a similarity? Why or why not?
3. What do we find out about Bench? Make sure you use evidence to support your inference.
4. How does Eric describe Deedee? Make sure you use evidence to support your inference.
5. What do we discover about the character Wolf? Make sure you use evidence to

support any inference you make.

6. "There were others, sometimes. Nomads" (Anderson 25). What are nomads? Why do you think Eric called them this name?

7. "the straw that broke the camel's back" (Anderson 25). Why does Eric not agree with this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. "Turns out cell phones were to blame for everything wrong in the world" (Anderson 26). Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

9. What happened after the meeting? Do you think this is the right decision? Why or why not?

10. "When the vote was passed, Mr. Jackson looked like a cat that just ate a three-hundred-pound canary" (Anderson 28). Why did the author use this simile?

11. How did the students react to the phone ban? How did Eric react? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

12. Do you think the cell phone ban will really help with the problem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

13. Why does Eric wear the Detroit baseball hat if he doesn't like baseball? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

14. "Mom was right. You make your tribe" (Anderson 36). How did Eric make his tribe?

15. "And everything came unglued" (Anderson 36). Make an inference- what do you think happened to the tribe? Use evidence from the text to support your inference.

16. Why do you think the yellow sticky note appeared on Eric's locker? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Variable

1. Why was Eric's nickname Frost? How did he feel about it? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. Look online and read the poem The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost. What is the author's message in the poem?

3. Why do you think the author decided to add this poem into the plot of the novel? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. "... there were a whole buttload of fences out in the world, but most of them were invisible" (Anderson 44). In your own words, what does this mean?

5. Who is Rose Holland? How do you think this character will impact the plot? Use evidence to support your answer.

The Promise

1. "We filled in each other's gaps" (Anderson 54). How was this true for Frost and his friends? Use evidence from the text to support any inferences.

2. "And there had always, ever, only been four" (Anderson 55). Why do you think Frost only wants to keep four people in his group?

3. Why did Rose sit with Frost and his friends at lunch? How did they feel about this?

4. On page 61, Frost compares the strangeness to being on a bus. Why did the author use this simile? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

5. What concerns Frost the most about Rose sitting at his table? Why do you think this bothers him? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Nudge

1. What had Frost lied about? Why do you think he lied? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. "Yeah, but why us?" (Anderson 74). Why do you think Rose decided to sit with Frost's group?
3. Who left the note on Frost's locker? How do you know? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Fish

1. "The day Bench almost got us all killed was the day I knew we were inseparable, that he'd always have our backs" (Anderson 81). Make a prediction- what do you think happens in this chapter?
2. "Nothing worse than knowing you're right and somebody else is wrong and still being on the losing end" (Anderson 84). Summarize what happened to make Frost feel this way?
3. "Bud I knew from that moment on what we counted on him for" (Anderson 87). What do they count on Bench for? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. What is "Running the Gauntlet"? Why do people want to watch it? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Gauntlet

1. "Middle school is a minefield" (Anderson 99). Why did the author use this metaphor? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Why is Frost's uncle nicknamed Pinky? What do we find out about his character?
3. "... he didn't have a whole lot of patience for people who didn't know a good thing when they had it" (Anderson 100). Who was Pinky referring to? Why do you think he feels this way?
4. "Nothing but trigger the thing and stay out of the way and try not to get hurt" (Anderson 102-103). Why did Uncle Mike give Frost this advice? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. Why is the hill called Hirohito Hill? Why have so many kids tried to tackle the Gauntlet? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. Bench and Frost discuss if they would ever attempt the Gauntlet. Would either of them try it? What does this show about their characters? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. Who sends Frost an email? What did it say?
8. How does Frost feel about the email he received? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Revolution

1. The chapter is titled "The Revolution". What is a revolution?
2. How did Frost's group become trendsetters? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Why do you think Mr. Sword has his students read Julius Caesar? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Why was Bench not going to lunch? How did Frost and the other boys feel about this?
5. What does Frost remember about the game they were playing at lunch? Why does he remember this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Bomb

1. What is the poem Fire and Ice about? Why does Frost like this poem so much? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Who was at You Old Smoothie's to work on the social studies project with Wolf and Frost? Why was this person there?
3. "He knew exactly what to use against me" (Anderson 145). What did Wolf use against Frost? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. What does Frost realize about Rose when she is helping them with their project?
5. "You ever think about starting over completely?" (Anderson 149). How does Frost feel about starting over? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Sword

1. "Sometimes, things stick" (Anderson 152). What is Frost referring to with this statement? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. "It was a color change" (Anderson 153). How had the sticky note thing changed? What did this change mean? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. "Two things are infinite: The universe and human stupidity. And I'm not sure about the universe" (Anderson 154). In your own words, explain what Albert Einstein means by this quote.
4. What is Mr. Sword's assignment? Why did he assign this to the class? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. What was Rose's aphorism? Explain what it means in your own words.
6. What is Wolf going to do with his sticky note? Why do you think he is going to do this?
7. "Getting a message through to some people was like trying to hammer a nail through a concrete block with your forehead" (Anderson 163). Why did the author use this simile? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
8. "But the meaning was clear. The war had begun" (Anderson 165). What happened? Why did this mean a war was starting? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
9. After reading this chapter, why do you think it is titled "The Sword"? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Catch

1. "In middle school, everybody gets a label" (Anderson 166). Why does everyone get a label? How does it make an impact on people? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Why does Eric believe the playing the piano is different from writing poetry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. How were Wolf and Frost's ribbons and trophies displayed? Why was there a difference?

4. Why do you think Wolf does not ask people to come to his recitals? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. Summarize what happened at the football game. Why do you think this event was added to the plot? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. What did Wolf think about Bench being carried off of the field? Why did he think this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. Why did Eric not tell his mom about Bench and the football game? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
8. What did Eric dream about regarding the Nobel Prize for Literature? Why do you think he had this dream?

The Rules

1. Why do you think the chapter begins with Eric going over all of the things he knows about Bench? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Who showed up at Wolf's house? How did Frost and Deedee feel about this?
3. At the end of the night, how did Frost feel about Bench not showing up? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. What did Eric discover about Bench at the end of the chapter? How do you think this will impact the rest of the novel? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Quiet

1. Why did Frost compare what was happening in school to a war? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. What happened at lunch with Bench? Why did this happen? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. What type of note did Rose receive? How did Wolf react?
4. "All the voices mixed together again, a hundred conversations that I wasn't a part of, blending to a steady incomprehensible roar" (Anderson 212). Why do you think the author described the cafeteria this way?
5. How did Frost feel about silence? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. Why did Frost ask his mom if she was popular? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. "I think next time I'll boil the noodles a little longer," she said, and pushed her plate away" (Anderson 219). Why do you think the author ended the conversation this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
8. What did Frost notice about his mother's yearbooks? What do you think happened?
9. Who did Frost receive a note from in his locker? Do you think it makes up for what happened at lunch? Explain your answer.

The Offer

1. How did Wolf and Frost feel about divorce? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. What news was delivered to the students on Tuesday morning? How do you think

this will impact the rest of the novel?

3. "... it means something whether they mean it or not" (Anderson 235). In your own words, explain what Wolf means by this statement.
4. Summarize what happened between Wolf and Jason in Mr. Sword's class.
5. Who showed up at Frost's house after school? Why do you think this person showed up?
6. What did Rose tell Frost about her old school? Why do you think she told him this information? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. "The offer was on the table and she was waiting for my answer" (Anderson 251). What was Rose's offer? How do you think Frost should respond? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
8. Summarize what Frost's poem was about at the end of the chapter. What is the significance of this poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Bet

1. "But the war was far from over" (Anderson 255). What do you think is going to happen? Why?
2. Why were sticky notes the perfect weapon? How were the rules changing?
3. How was Frost's relationship with Bench different? Why do you think it changed?
4. Why was Wolf not suspended? Why do you think this happened? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. "Is it all right to murder one person in cold blood if it will improve the life of thousands of others. Is that justifiable?" (Anderson 259). Why do you think the author included Julius Caesar in the plot? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
6. How did Deedee feel about the sticky note fad? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. "He meant the die. Deedee's special die" (Anderson 263). How did Cameron know about Deedee's die? Why do you think he wanted it?
8. Summarize what happened between Cameron and Deedee in the bathroom.
9. Who saved Deedee and Frost from Cameron and his friends?
10. "There's only one way to settle a bet around here, right" (Anderson 270). What did Rose bet Cameron? Why do you think Rose did this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

The Run

1. "It makes you wonder where they all go, all the letters and notes, the thank-you cards and the birthday invitations..." (Anderson 275). Why do you think Frost reflects on letter writing? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. "Deedee was convinced that Bench had blabbed" (Anderson 277). Why do you think Bench told Cameron about Deedee's die? Do you think he intended for things to happen they way they did?
3. Why do you think Rose did not want Wolf at the Gauntlet?
4. "I took a moment to appreciate the irony" (Anderson 280). What was so ironic?
5. How is the Gauntlet similar to Game of Thrones? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

6. "You're famous,' I said" (Anderson 283). How did Rose respond to Frost's statement? What is the difference between the two?
7. Wolf showed up at the Gauntlet. How did he feel about Rose and her bet? Why?
8. Wolf and Rose have a disagreement about the Gauntlet. Who is right? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
9. "There wasn't a crowd when my father made his run" (Anderson 290). Why do you think the author uses this flashback at this moment? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
10. Summarize what happened at Rose and Cameron's Gauntlet run.
11. What do you think will happen after the Gauntlet run?

The Message

1. How did the crowd treat Rose after the Gauntlet?
2. Do you think Rose will have a similar reaction after her successful run compared to Bench's successful catch? Why or why not?
3. "I wondered who he'd been rooting for" (Anderson 301). Who do you think Bench was rooting for during the Gauntlet? Explain your answer.
4. What did Frost discover about Rose after dropping her off at home? What does this say about Rose's character? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
5. "I lay in bed wondering what Rose had in mind" (Anderson 306). What do you think Rose is planning to do? Why?
6. How did Cameron react to wearing the sticky note all day? Why do you think he acted this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. What did Rose decide to write on the note Cameron had to wear? Why do you think she picked this?
8. "But we were both wrong" (Anderson 310). Why do you think the war is still going on?
9. "There was still one last message to be posted" (Anderson 310). What was the last message? How was it different compared to the previous ones?

The Confession

1. What was the last message? Why do you think this was written on locker B78?
2. What was the significance of the last message? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Who do you think wrote the message on the locker? Why?
4. "And what do we even say when we find him" (Anderson 319). What do you think the tribe should say to Wolf? Why?
5. What was Wolf doing in his backyard when the tribe arrived? Why do you think he was doing this? Use evidence to support your answer.
6. Why did Frost go to Bench's house?
7. What did Bench have to say about the incident involving Deedee's dice?
8. What did Bench admit to regarding his friendship with the tribe?

The Response

1. Who wrote the message on Wolf's locker?
2. What do you think Frost should do with the information he received from Bench?

3. What happened to Wolf's locker on Monday?
4. "Nobody even knows who started it" (Anderson 340). Who do you think started it? Why?
5. Who was outside of Principal Wittingham's office? Why did this person tell Frost that he saved him a seat?
6. How can words do a lot of damage, but be beautiful at the same time?
7. Why is Wolf not coming back to school? Do you think he is making the right decision? Why or why not?
8. What note did Rose find on her locker the day of the Gauntlet that she passed on to Wolf? Who do you think wrote the note? How do you know?

The Invitation

1. "I learned more in the two weeks following that first posted note than I did in the two years of middle school leading up to it" (Anderson 352). What did Frost learn?
 2. What changes were made after Wolf left?
 3. How was life different for Jason Baker and Cameron Cole?
 4. Why did Bench stop by and talk to the tribe? Why do you think he did this?
 5. "Without even saying a word" (Anderson 365). Why do you think this was the last line of the book?
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Essay Questions:

Read each of the following topics. On loose leaf, write a 3-4 paragraph essay (each) about **2** of the topics. (Do NOT write an essay for all of the topics or subtopics!!!)

1) **Tribe** (Choose 1 of the topics to answer.)

- A. Do you have a "Tribe?" If so, give some details about the members. {You don't have to name names.} How did your tribe come together? How has it changed? Explain if those changes have been for the better or the worse.
- B. If you do not have a "tribe" yet, what are some qualities you would look for in the people you would want to be in your tribe? Why?
- C. Does a person need a "tribe" to be successful in life or in school? Explain why or why not?

2) **Friendship** (Choose 1 of the topics to answer.)

- A. Have you ever become friends with someone you never expected to be close to? Explain how that friendship can be.
- B. Have you ever ended a relationship with a close friend? Explain how and why that relationship ended.

3) **Characterization and Plot** (Choose 1 of the topics to answer.)

- A. Put yourself in the shoes of Frost, Wolf, and Deedee. How would you feel if Bench stopped being part of your group? Would you forgive him for his actions? Would you take him back into the "tribe?" Explain your choices.
- B. Would you accept Rose as a member of the "tribe?" Why or why not?
- C. Rose was given the chance to choose Cameron's punishment. Do you agree with the punishment she chose? If so, why? If not, why not? What punishment would you have chosen and why?

- D. Do you agree with Wolf's decision about his life at the end of the novel? Why or why not? Should he have stayed or left the school? Explain your reasoning.
- E. Predict what will happen to the new "tribe" – Frost, Wolf, Deedee, and Rose. Will they continue to be friends? Why or why not?