

## Focused Reading

This is designed to get you to focus in on key parts and vocabulary of the book as you are reading. You can use this as a study guide after you fill it in.

1. Baskin explains that everyone's morning may have started differently on 9/11. "There was excitement and pain, \_\_\_\_\_, love and loneliness, anger and joy."
2. She describes the weather that day by writing, "The sky was \_\_\_\_\_. There were one or two \_\_\_\_\_. It was late-summer warm, so the air was \_\_\_\_\_, not the least bit \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Before the attacks occurred, people would have described the day as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, invigorating, peaceful, quiet, astounding, crystalline, blue.
4. Sergio had only agreed to go to Chicago at all because his \_\_\_\_\_ was so proud of him.
5. While Sergio's plaque weighed down his carry-on bag, he \_\_\_\_\_ the newsstand at the airport.
6. Kinkaid was [Sergio's] father's last name. Of his father, that was pretty much all he \_\_\_\_\_.
7. When the redheaded boy offers Sergio a Kitkat: Sergio wasn't expecting that. It was \_\_\_\_\_.
8. [Naheed] was Middle Eastern. Well, she was \_\_\_\_\_, born twelve years ago in Columbus, Ohio, and she had \_\_\_\_\_.
9. She was at O'Hare airport waiting \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When Naheed looks at the magazines, she sees the girls on the covers but knows her father would not let her buy one. Naheed knows the bare skin showing and hair blowing all around is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Naheed tries to apologize to the girl she bumps into at the airport, but her voice was absorbed into \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Aimee and her dad were going to Los Angeles, but her mom, at the last minute, had to go to \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Aimee is starting seventh grade tomorrow in a new school, new town, and, to make matters worse,  
\_\_\_\_\_.
14. Will really wished his mother didn't ask strangers for  
\_\_\_\_\_.
15. Will's family's trip to Florida had been a gift of healing from the town of  
\_\_\_\_\_.
16. The trip began to feel like a \_\_\_\_\_. It was a  
\_\_\_\_\_ to be happy.
17. In eighteen years of long-distance hauling [Will's dad] had never gotten a serious \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Will's dad saw a car not quite pulled over on the side of the interstate and the driver, \_\_\_\_\_,  
slumped over the steering wheel.
19. The state trooper sys Mr. Rittenhouse was trying to help, but of course it was all \_\_\_\_\_ because the state troopers put together accident scenes based on the physical evidence.
20. The troopers speculate that Will's dad had been about to open the driver's door to see what was wrong when another car \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
21. Will questions his father being called a hero because it was a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ his father had done.
22. On her first day of school, Aimee didn't eat lunch because she  
\_\_\_\_\_, and she hadn't felt like \_\_\_\_\_  
the line, or trying to figure out how to buy lunch and where to sit or with \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Aimee thinks the new classmates she meets look like miniature grown-ups, but now compared to them, she looks like \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Vanessa says that the other thing about California is that people move there just to \_\_\_\_\_.
25. After Paul shows up, Sergio decides he needs some time to  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Sergio did not refer to \_\_\_\_\_ as his father.
27. To say that Nana wasn't fond of Sergio's dad was an  
\_\_\_\_\_.
28. Sergio realizes he should stop getting his hopes up about getting anything from Paul, but thinks it would be a reasonable thing to expect to get something to  
\_\_\_\_\_ his accomplishment from his parent.

29. When Sergio swiped his \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ didn't budge.
30. After jumping the turnstile, Sergio feels a strong hand on his shoulder pull him back. "There's a hundred-dollar fine for \_\_\_\_\_. You have any ID?"
31. Sergio felt his heart \_\_\_\_\_ with a terrible \_\_\_\_\_, a blackness that \_\_\_\_\_, like being underwater.
32. Paul says, "You know, if Sergio won anything, it's \_\_\_\_\_."
33. For some reason, even though Naheed and Eliza had never been friends before, Eliza had \_\_\_\_\_ to Naheed this year, sort of like \_\_\_\_\_.
34. And sort of in a \_\_\_\_\_ way - even though it was annoying - Naheed didn't mind, because \_\_\_\_\_ was so much more \_\_\_\_\_ than fifth had been...
35. Mrs Salinger tells the class that they will, "use the \_\_\_\_\_ to test these \_\_\_\_\_."
36. Naheed feels like lately the universe was \_\_\_\_\_ against her.
37. Surviving middle school seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_ solely on \_\_\_\_\_. And \_\_\_\_\_.
38. When Eliza tries to argue with Mrs. Salinger, Naheed wonders if Eliza didn't know that resistance was \_\_\_\_\_.
39. When asked about her name, Maheed answers, "It's a perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ name." But she hears \_\_\_\_\_'s voice in her head giving a different response.
40. She also imagines Nouri explaining a \_\_\_\_\_ by saying *It shows that we are \_\_\_\_\_*. *That we are not looking for \_\_\_\_\_*. *It shows our \_\_\_\_\_ to Islam. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ from Allah.*