

Refugee, by Alan Gratz

Extended Response Prompts

Josef: Berlin, Germany—1938 (pp. 1-6)

1. Describe the feelings Josef felt as the men had entered his family's home. What does it tell you about him that he immediately went to protect his sister Ruth? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
2. Why did the Sturmabteilung vandalize the Landau's home and take Josef's father, Aaron? What is happening at this era in European history? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
3. What happened on Kristallnacht? Why were the Jewish families targeted? Why do you think they targeted the men? Why was Josef's father released from the concentration camp, and why was this a final warning for his family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Just Outside Havana, Cuba—1994 (pp. 7-11)

4. Explain how the physical description of both Isabel and the calico kitten describe the lifestyle people suffered through in Cuba in the 1990s. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
5. In Cuba, after the fall of the Soviet Union, food and jobs were scarce. Explain how this fact caused Isabel to keep her kitten hidden, and her neighbor Ivan and his father to keep the boat they were building hidden. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Aleppo, Syria—2015 (pp. 12-17)

6. Explain why Mahmoud wanted to stay invisible. What was the benefit that no one noticed him, especially not the Syrian army or the rebels? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
7. How has the war affected Mahmoud and his younger brother, Waleed? Explain how it made each day another challenge to stay alive. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
8. How did the Arab Spring build as it moved on to Syria? Why did people believe this type of uprising would be dangerous with Assad as the dictator? Describe the how the Arabic proverb, "Close the door that brings the wind and relax," did not apply to Syria. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
9. Explain how the incident with Khalid made it a necessity that Mahmoud become "invisible." How did this violent incident ultimately end his friendship with Khalid? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Berlin, Germany—1939 (pp. 18-24)

10. What was the motivation for the Landau family to flee to Cuba? Why was this island nation a necessary destination? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
11. How did the humiliation in Herr Meier's class inspire Josef to leave the Jewish compartment of the train, and explore the German train cars? What did he notice? How was life different? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
12. Describe the experiences Josef had with the Hitler Youth. How did the incident in Herr Meier's class cause Josef to lose his best friend, Klaus? How was this evident, and do you think Klaus had a choice? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
13. Contrast how Josef was feeling as he strolled around the train with his Star of David armband in his pocket with what happened after it had fallen out? Why was Josef so fearful of the boy in the Hitler Youth uniform? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Havana, Cuba—1994 (pp. 25-29)

14. Describe the scene that Isabel sees as she hears the breaking glass of the riots beginning. What surprised her as she weaved through the crowd? Why was this an abnormal occurrence? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
15. When Isabel finally found her father, she saw him throwing a bottle at the police. Explain how the aftermath of this act showed Isabel and Lito that her Papi had to leave Cuba immediately. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Aleppo, Syria—2015 (pp. 30-33)

16. Describe the everyday life Mahmoud, his brother Waleed and his mother experienced after school. Why did his mother quit her job as a nurse? Was the newborn baby Hana the only reason? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
17. Explain what Mahmoud experienced when his neighborhood was bombed. Even after being injured, what did Mahmoud think of first? What does this tell you about his character? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: On a train to Hamburg, Germany—1939 (1 day from home) (pp. 34-39)

18. How did the Hitler Youth member surprise Josef? What does this tell you about some of the people who had served the Nazis? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

19. As the Landau family approached the MS *St. Louis*, they were reunited with their father. Describe how he had changed since they last saw him six months earlier. Why did these changes worry the rest of the family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
20. Was Josef's father right to be so paranoid about the ship? What do you think may have happened to him that made him so fearful? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Just Outside Havana, Cuba—1994 (pp. 40-48)

21. Explain the United States policy of "Wet Foot, Dry Foot." Did this policy seem fair? Why did the American government deem it to be necessary? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
22. When Castro addressed his citizens on television, he announced that anyone who wanted to leave Cuba would be allowed to leave peacefully. Why did this announcement cause a heated conflict in Isabel's home? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
23. While her parents argue about leaving Cuba, Isabel takes action. What exactly does she do, and why? What does this tell you about her? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Aleppo, Syria—2015 (pp. 49-55)

24. Describe the scene that was unfolding all around Mahmoud in the moments after the bombing. What does he see and how does this affect the actions that he takes? Explain how this is a different reaction than his brother's. What accounts for this difference? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
25. Explain what Mahmoud's father feels is most important? Would you feel this way after you have just lost nearly all of your possessions, and your home? Explain why you might be hesitant to agree with Mahmoud's father about what is important, but contrast that with why he is correct. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean—1939 (6 days from home) (pp. 56-59)

26. Describe the feeling on the ocean liner as they moved closer towards Cuba. Why was this feeling infectious among the entire ship? Why did Josef's father feel the opposite? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
27. How did Josef feel about being aboard the MS *St. Louis*? Why did he have so much fun with his sister Ruthie and the other children they met on the boat? What allowed them to have this experience? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Just Outside Havana, Cuba—1994 (pp. 60-65)

28. Isabel was expecting the police to arrest them as they began to leave Cuba, but was instead met with television cameras from CNN. What does this contrast show about what was happening during this time in history? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
29. Explain why Luis and his girlfriend's escape towards the Castillo's boat showed the chaos of the situation. Why did their running for the boat scare Isabel and her father as much as the aftermath of them reaching the boat scared them? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
30. Why was the presence of Luis and his girlfriend a danger for everyone on board the Castillo's boat? How did their escape endanger the boat, even after their escape was completed? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Just Outside Aleppo, Syria—2015 (1 day from home) (pp. 66-73)

31. Why did Daesh, or ISIS, pose such a danger to Mahmoud's family? How could their escape from Aleppo and their appearance possibly place them in more danger with Daesh? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
32. Why did the approaching soldiers pose a real threat to Mahmoud and his family? Why was it so difficult to answer their questions in the way that was required? How did Waleed seem to solve this problem? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
33. The soldiers were telling Mahmoud's father, "You shouldn't be leaving Syria. You should stand up for your country! Fight the tyrant Assad!" What did Mahmoud feel about this advice? Explain how the events immediately afterwards helped justify this opinion. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean—1939 (8 days from home) (pp. 74-80)

34. What caused Josef's father to be suspicious of the synagogue that was being erected on onboard the ship? Why does he refuse to attend his own son's bar mitzvah? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
35. What is the source of Josef's anxiety after his bar mitzvah? Why is this a legitimate worry for the Jews aboard the ship? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: The Straits of Florida—Somewhere north of Cuba—1994 (1 day from home) (pp. 81-86)

36. Explain how the bottom of the Castillo's boat was an example of irony. Why was this piece readily available in Cuba? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

37. Thinking about what each passenger in Senor Castillo's boat said about their goals once they reach the United States, what ideas about America do they share? Do you think these ideas will work out exactly the way they planned? Explain. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Kilis, Turkey—2015 (2 days from home) (pp. 87-92)

38. Knowing the conflicts that Mahmoud's family experienced as they travelled to Turkey, how did they realize they have a long way to go, even though they were granted visas into the country? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
39. Describe the refugee camp that Mahmoud's family enters. Why does the camp cause Mahmoud's father to attempt to get his family into the European Union? What tells you that these plans could be dangerous? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean—1939 (10 days from home) (pp. 93-98)

40. Contrast the upper levels of ship with the lower levels where Petty Officer Jockl took the children on a tour. How did these differences cause Josef to feel uneasy? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
41. After the children's encounter with Schiendick, why did Josef say that, "Here, below decks was the real world?" Explain how this encounter made Josef feel? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: The Straits of Florida—Somewhere north of Cuba—1994 (1 day from home) (pp. 99-103)

42. What caused the occupants of the boat to start to worry about their safety as they sailed towards Florida? How can you tell that the danger they feel is becoming more serious? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
43. Lito tells Isabel that she does have a relative in Miami—his brother Guillermo. Why didn't Lito leave Cuba when his brother did? Why was it "inconceivable" that Isabel or anyone in their family would have been born "el Norte?" What does this tell you about their feelings for Cuba? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
44. Lito tells his family that it was a mistake to leave Cuba in "this sinking coffin," stating that things "always change." Ivan asked him in return, "But do they ever get better?" Have things improved for Isabel's family or the people of Cuba over time? Explain. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
45. Explain how Lito feels about moving to the United States. Why does he feel that even with all the trouble in Cuba, it is the right place for his family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Izmir, Turkey—2015 (4 days from home) (pp. 104-109)

46. What problem did Mahmoud's father have once his family arrived in Izmir? What were the repercussions of this delay? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
47. Compare what Mahmoud's family observed in Turkey, as it compared to Syria. How was Mahmoud's brother, Waleed different? Why did these contrasts make Mahmoud yearn for home? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
48. Describe the motives of the thin Syrian boy who approaches Mahmoud. Do you think he is taking advantage of the refugees he encounters? Even if he is, is he giving them help that they need? Does this matter to Mahmoud's family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean—1939 (11 days from home) (pp. 110-115)

49. What causes Josef's father to worry that the Nazis had boarded their ship? How was Josef able to convince him that they were all safe? Explain how this shows a change in Josef's character. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
50. How did Schiendick attempt to ruin Professor Weiler's funeral? Were his actions meant to follow German law or to be an insult to the Jewish people attending the funeral? Explain. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
51. What did the actions of Captain Schroeder tell you about his character? Do you think he is risking his future by defying Schiendick and German law? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
52. Josef wonders, "What happened to him at Dachau that he's now a ghost of the man he once was?" How did the events of the funeral cause Josef to think this way? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: The Straits of Florida—Somewhere north of Cuba—1994 (1 day from home) (pp. 116-120)

53. Explain the decision Papi and Lito were arguing over. What were the positive and negative results of showing themselves to the tanker? Explain why you agree with either Lito or Papi. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Izmir, Turkey—2015 (11 days from home) (pp. 121-128)

54. Explain how the repeated delays affected Mahmoud. Why did these delays take such a toll on him? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
55. Describe the feelings of the family as they returned to the mall to find two men demanding an exorbitant amount of money for "rent" and how they felt as they met Mr. Nasseer. Explain the reasons for the roller coaster of emotions. Use text information and

your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean—1939 (14 days from home) (pp. 129-135)

56. Why did Josef have mixed feelings about the party as he noticed the stewards celebrating with the Jewish passengers? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
57. The doctors from Cuba announced that they needed to examine all of the passengers before they were allowed entry into the country. Explain why Josef's mother and father were worried about this, but for different reasons entirely. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
58. "Josef and his father had traded places." How did Josef assert this to his father while the doctor was examining the passengers? How did he feel about this afterwards? Was this necessary? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: The Straits of Florida—Somewhere north of Cuba—1994 (1 day from home) (pp. 136-140)

59. Isabel jumps into the water to save Senor Castillo. What does this tell you about her character that she risks her life for Senor Castillo? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
60. What challenges did Isabel and her shipmates encounter after Isabel saved Senor Castillo and returned him to the boat? How could these challenges put their voyage in jeopardy? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Izmir, Turkey—2015 (11 days from home) (pp. 141-146)

61. What caused Mahmoud and his mother to have doubts about the voyage? Would you have boarded the "ship" that was to take them to Greece? Explain. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
62. Explain how the entire experience of waiting for the boat and the boat itself foreshadowed the disaster that happens at the end of this chapter. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Just Outside Havana Harbor—1939 (17 days from home) (pp. 147-152)

63. What troubles were Josef and the other Jewish passengers experiencing on the ship as it sat in Havana Harbor under quarantine? What happened that made the passengers uneasy about their chances of making it to Cuba? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
64. What was Schiendick's motivation for forcing Josef to allow them into his family's cabin? Describe the damage they did, and what message they were sending to Josef and his family. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

65. “Of the things Schiendick and his firemen had broken, the Landau family was the one thing Josef wasn’t sure they could put it back together.” What does he mean by this? Why does Josef feel like he betrayed his father? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Somewhere on the Straits of Florida—Somewhere north of Cuba—1994 (2 days from home) (pp. 153-156)

66. Why does the storm Isabel and her boat mates are experiencing remind her of a terrible hurricane she simply called *The Storm*? How does Lito make Isabel feel better about her terrible memory? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
67. Lito tells Isabel that her Abuelita’s song had ended when she died in the hurricane years prior. Explain who Isabel begins to compare her life thus far to a song. What is she trying to say about her life? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Somewhere on the Mediterranean Sea—2015 (11 days from home) (pp. 157-163)

68. What happened in the aftermath of the dingy crash? What does it mean that, “as far as Mahmoud was concerned his world was four meters round.” What is he focused on at this point? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
69. Why did Mahmoud’s mother give Hana to the other refugees in the dingy that refused to let them in, leaving her alone with strangers? What would you have done in this position? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
70. Explain how the second dingy, refusing to help rescue Mahmoud and his family, literally tore his family apart. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Just Outside Havana Harbor—1939 (18 days from home) (pp. 164-170)

71. “The Nazis had taken his father away and replaced him with a madman.” How did Josef’s father change after being in Dachau? How did the incident with Schiendick make his mental state even worse? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
72. When Josef’s mother went to get her husband a sleeping pill (by saying it was for her), she was forced by the doctor to take it right there herself. What were the consequences of this unplanned problem? Why did this make Josef uneasy? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
73. How did Josef react to his father’s story about the forced drownings at the concentration camp? Do you think this story is an example of foreshadowing, which is why is scared Josef so much? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Somewhere on the Caribbean Sea—Somewhere north of Cuba—1994 (3 days from home) (pp. 171-178)

74. What does the conversation between Ivan and Isabel allow you to infer about them? How do they feel when they finally see land? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
75. After landing in the Bahamas, Isabel's happiness quickly turns to sorrow. What happens in the Bahamas that threatens to break up their family? Why did the family decide to return to the sea? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
76. Even though they were threatened with deportation in the Bahamas, how did the short stop at the resort actually help Isabel and her fellow boat mates? However, how did this make them realize they were farther away from freedom? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Somewhere on the Mediterranean Sea—2015 (11 days from home) (pp. 179-182)

77. How did the drowned man help Mahmoud and his mother? What does it tell you about Mahmoud that he recited a prayer for the man after taking his life jacket, sending him to the bottom of the sea? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Just Outside Havana Harbor—1939 (18 days from home) (pp. 183-186)

78. When the Cuban policeman began to rescue Josef's father, how did he react? What does this behavior tell you about his mental state? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
79. How did Josef feel after his father had been rescued? Why did this incident affect him so much? Why did he feel that his father was "gone," even though the Cuban policemen saved his life? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Somewhere between the Bahamas and Florida—1994 (4 days from home) (pp. 187-191)

80. Explain how the demeanor of the boat changed since they left the Bahamas. What is happening to everyone, as they return to the ocean? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
81. What did Amara say to the rest of the boat's occupants to stop the fighting? How did they solve the boat's problems and the problems dealing with the unrelenting heat? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Somewhere on the Mediterranean Sea—2015 (11 days from home) (pp. 192-196)

82. How did Mahmoud feel when he saw the boat, that turned out to be the Greek Coast Guard? Why did he have conflicting feelings when he saw his father and Waleed, who had been rescued earlier by the Coast Guard? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
83. Explain why Mahmoud felt guilty about giving Hana to the people on the boat, as he looks for his sister among the dead. Did he make the right decision? Do you understand why he regrets the decision? Explain. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Just Outside Havana Harbor—1939 (19 days from home) (pp. 197-202)

84. How did the passengers on the boat respond to meeting Officer Padron? How did he react to seeing Josef and his mother? What does this tell you about Officer Padron's character? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Somewhere between the Bahamas and Florida—1994 (5 days from home) (pp. 203-209)

85. Why did Isabel describe this part of their journey as being "in limbo?" What was Isabel's mindset about their voyage at this point, and what happened to change it? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
86. Explain the irony behind the names Isabel and Luis' families wanted to give their boat. What was the meaning behind these names? Why was everyone silent when Isabel's grandfather said "St. Louis?" Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Lesbos, Greece to Athens, Greece—2015 (12 days from home) (pp. 210-215)

87. How does Mahmoud feel about being in the tent city in Lesbos? Why is he unable to look at his mother? If you were in his shoes, would you feel the same way? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
88. Explain how the people on the cruise liner to Athens caused Mahmoud to come to a new realization about how people in the West see refugees. After coming to this realization, does he think that this is good for his family? Explain. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Just Outside Havana Harbor—1939 (21 days from home) (pp. 216-222)

89. Evelyn and Renata's father, Dr. Aber, who lives in Cuba, comes aboard the ship to take his daughters with him to Cuba. How does this cause the other passengers to react? How does this lead to a change in the Cuban police officers? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

90. What did Captain Schroeder have to tell the crowd that was gathered? What was his plan to keep them away from Germany? Explain why Josef felt he needed to represent his family as the Captain spoke to the assembled crowd. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
91. As the MS St. Louis leaves Havana harbor, Josef, “took his shirt collar in both hands and ripped along the seam.” What does this action symbolize as Josef and the rest of the passengers leave Cuba? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Somewhere between the Bahamas and Florida—1994 (5 days from home) (pp. 223-228)

92. How did Isabel react to Ivan’s death? Why was she unable to look at his lifeless body? Explain what Ivan meant to her. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
93. Isabel’s father and Ivan’s brother, Luis, placed Ivan’s body overboard, after was died. How did members of Ivan’s and Isabel’s family show him proper respect before he was gently placed into a watery grave? Why was it important for Isabel to find Ivan’s hat, immediately after he was gone? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Macedonia to Serbia—2015 (14 to 15 days from home) (pp. 229-235)

94. Why did Mahmoud’s father make the decision to sneak into Macedonia, instead of waiting for the correct papers? Would you have done the same thing, or waited in Athens for any sign of Hana, like Mahmoud’s mother wanted to do? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
95. Why did Mahmoud’s family decide to accept a ride to Serbia from the stranger in Macedonia? Was this proven to be the right decision the next time they used this method of travel? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Off the American Coast—1939 (21 days from home) (pp. 236-242)

96. Contrast how Josef’s mother reacted to her husband’s suicide attempt and how she felt as the MS St. Louis neared Miami? Do you think she has lost her senses, just as Josef’s father had after leaving Dachau? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
97. After the announcement that the United States had refused the Jewish refugees asylum, it was stated that the ship would return to Europe. What are the consequences of such a decision? Why do you think Josef’s mother, knowing the ramifications of such a move, wanted to dance alone in the dance hall? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
98. Pozner, a man whom Josef had recognized, tried to recruit Josef to participate in a

mutiny, to take over the MS St. Louis. What are the obstacles to this plan's success? Why does Josef's tour of the ship earlier in the voyage, make him an important part of Pozner's plan, but also an expert of the barrier to its success? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Off the Coast of Florida—1994 (5 days from home) (pp. 243-246)

99. Explain how Amara and Isabel's quick thinking save the ship from ending up at the bottom of the ocean. Were they right to take this action over the objections of Senor Castillo? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Serbia to Hungary—2015 (15 to 16 days from home) (pp. 247-252)

100. Explain the danger that Mahmoud and his family encountered in Serbia. How did the danger change Mahmoud, just in time to see a large group of refugees storm the Hungarian border fence? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean—1939 (22 days from home) (pp. 253-258)

101. Why did Josef agree to participate in the mutiny to take over the MS St. Louis? As the takeover of the bridge continued, what caused Josef to become the most militant among his fellow mutineers, as the older men began to waver? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
102. When Captain Schroeder arrives to find Pozner's group of mutineers have taken over his bridge, how does he react? How is he able to convince the men to leave the bridge and return control of the ship to his crew? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
103. After Pozner agrees to Captain Schroeder's terms, why is Josef so disappointed, even though he was initially reluctant to participate in the mutiny? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Off the Coast of Florida—1994 (5 days from home) (pp. 259-262)

104. Explain how Isabel's mother going into labor, gave the passengers of the boat a renewed hope. How did the Coast Guard boat also give them hope, as well as fear? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Hungary—2015 (16 days from home) (pp. 263-269)

105. Describe how Mahmoud and his father were treated by the Hungarian police. Explain the vitriol the guards showed towards Mahmoud and his father. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
106. When Mahmoud and his father were processed in Hungary, Mahmoud said that they would "blend in and be unimportant." What does this help Mahmoud accomplish? Explain how this took him back to where he started before they left Syria. Use text

information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Antwerp, Belgium—1939 (36 days from home) (pp. 270-274)

107. Explain the scene as the passengers are leaving the MS St. Louis in Antwerp, Rotterdam, and finally in France. One passenger noted that they had been aboard the ship for forty days and forty nights. What is the symbolism for them and for Josef and his family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
108. Josef wondered if France was “The Promised Land.” How did life return to normal, making this belief possible, only to have their fortunes reversed when the Nazis invaded France? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Off the Coast of Florida—1994 (5 days from home) (pp. 275-278)

109. Lito tells a story about when he was a young man and had to send a boat of Jewish refugees back to Europe. Who is Lito in Josef’s story? Explain why he was haunted by this as he and his family tried to reach Florida. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
110. Lito kept muttering, “Manana” during the voyage. What was the symbolism of this word for Lito? What did he do to make sure “Manana” arrives for Isabel and her family? Explain how this action was connected to the story of the Jewish refugees. Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Hungary—2015 (17 days from home) (pp. 279-284)

111. Mahmoud feels that he is the only member of his family that is not “dead inside.” Why does he feel that his mother and Waleed are “broken?” What finally caused his father to no longer feel anything? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
112. How did Mahmoud contrast the positives and negatives of being both *visible* and *invisible*? How has these two opposing viewpoints helped and hurt Mahmoud and his family? What caused him to make a final decision on this quandary? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
113. How did the UN inspectors influence Mahmoud to become *invisible*, in order to become *visible*? How did becoming *visible* help him get away from the Hungarian guards? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Josef: Vornay, France—1940 (1 year, 1 month and 19 days from home) (pp. 285-291)

114. Explain how the sanctuary in France abruptly ended. When cornered by Nazi soldiers, why was Josef’s mother unsuccessful in bribing the Stormtroopers? Do you think they had any intention of bargaining with Josef’s mother? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Miami Beach, Florida—1994 (5 days from home) (pp. 292-298)

115. Isabel's mother has her baby while being tailed by the Coast Guard. How does this bond his family together, whether they make it to Florida or they get sent back to Cuba? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
116. Describe the process the Castillo and Fernandez families endured to reach the beach, and American soil. What is the significance of Isabel's statement to the girl in the bikini, "I'm from Cuba, but my little brother was born here. He's an American. And soon I will be too." Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Hungary to Germany—2015 (17 days from home) (pp. 299-305)

117. Explain how Mahmoud led the group of refugees from the Hungarian camp into Austria. How did the presence of the UN observers, make this march to freedom possible? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
118. How were the refugees welcomed as they crossed the border into Austria? Why was Mahmoud so surprised? How did this reaction help his mother and father? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
119. When asked if he and his family were seeking asylum in Germany, Mahmoud could not believe that this was the end of their journey and they had reached "the promised land." Why did Mahmoud feel this was a great description of Germany? What is the irony of this statement based on Josef's story? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Isabel: Miami, Florida—1994 (Home) (pp. 306-309)

120. After nearly a month in Miami, describe how Isabel's life has returned to some sense of normalcy. How does she feel to be a normal schoolgirl in America? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
121. What is the significance of Isabel playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" as she was counting *clave*? Who is she playing for? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

Mahmoud: Berlin, Germany—2015 (Home) (pp. 310-317)

122. What is connection between Mahmoud's new home of Berlin and his original home of Aleppo? How did he like his new home? What did he feel was familiar? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.
123. Who are Frau and Herr Rosenberg? What motivation did they have for taking in Mahmoud and his family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.

124. Ruth told Mahmoud the story of how she was separated from Josef and their mother. She said that Josef wanted to be a man. How did his last act prove that he was a man? How did this final act of heroism by Josef save a generation of his family? Use text information and your own interpretations to answer the question.