Chapter One – Ravi

◊ What do we find out about Ravi’s name?
◊ How is Ravi’s home different in America compared to his home in India?
◊ What does Ravi’s grandmother mean when she says, “If you’re not careful, you’ll turn into one of them.” (Page 5)
◊ What does “ABCD” stand for? Who does Ravi give this acronym to? Why?
◊ What happens when Ravi introduces himself in front of the class? Why does this happen?
◊ Who is Miss Frost? Why does Ravi have to see her?
◊ Do you think Dillon wants to be Ravi’s friend?

Chapter Two – Joe

◊ How will the school year be different for Joe?
◊ How does Joe feel about school?
◊ Who is Mr. Barnes? How does Joe feel about him?
◊ What does Joe mean when he says, “One thing I know about Dillon Samreen: He really knows how to play a crowd.” (Page 13)
◊ What accommodation does Joe use in school to help him focus?
◊ Why does Joe think he might have a “year off” of being bullied?

Chapter Three – Ravi

◊ Why does Ravi think he will sit with Dillon at lunch? What happens instead?
◊ Why does Ravi want to be friends with Dillon so badly?

Chapter Four – Joe

◊ How does Joe act in the cafeteria? Why does he act this way?
◊ What is Joe’s nickname? Why did Dillon give him this name?
◊ Why does Joe watch Dillon all the time?
◊ What happens with Joe and his mom at lunch?
Chapter Five – Ravi
◊ How do Amma and Perimma react when Ravi gets home from his first day? What does he tell them?
◊ How does Perimma treat Amma? Why do you think she treats her this way?

Chapter Six – Joe
◊ Why does Joe’s mom work at his school?
◊ Describe Joe’s relationship with Mr. Barnes. Why do you think the author developed their relationship this way?
◊ Joe says, “I wonder if Mr. Barnes has ever seen the look on the face of a zebra who’s just stepped into a crocodile’s mouth.” (Page 37). Why do you think Joe makes this comparison?
◊ What advice did Mr. Barnes give Joe? How does he deliver this information?
◊ Why is Joe’s mom crying when he gets home from school? How does he respond to her?
◊ Do you think Joe is being too hard on his mom? Why or why not?

Chapter Seven – Ravi
◊ What advice does Appa give Ravi? Do you think this will work?
◊ What does Ravi thin he needs to do to fix things with Mrs. Beam? Do you think this will work?

Chapter Eight – Joe
◊ What does Joe expect to hear from his dad when he is having problems? Is this real advice?
◊ Why is Joe having such a difficult time in school?
◊ Do you think Miss Frost forgot to talk to Mrs. Beam about Joe?
◊ At this point in the book, what do Ravi and Joe have in common? What makes them different?
◊ Why do you think the author made the characters share similar characteristics?
Chapter Nine – Ravi
◊ How does Ravi’s family view his education?
◊ How does Ravi feel about Joe Sylvester?

Chapter Ten – Joe
◊ What is APD? How does this make school difficult for Joe?
◊ “Sometimes teachers they they’re doing you a favor by treating you like you’re no different from anyone else.” (Page 54). What does this quote mean?
◊ What does Joe think about Ravi?

Chapter Eleven – Ravi
◊ “This is it. The moment I’ve been waiting for.” (Page 56). Do you think Ravi is getting his hopes up?
◊ What happens when Ravi gets up to do the math problem?
◊ What does Joe do to ruin Ravi’s day? Do you think Joe did this on purpose?

Chapter Twelve – Joe
◊ What does Joe realize about the way Mrs. Beam pronounces Ravi’s name? What does this show you about Joe?
◊ What does Joe realize about Dillion when he is “helping” Ravi? Why do you think Joe is the only person who notices this?
◊ Why does Joe think Dillon winks? How is this different compared to Ravi?
◊ If Joe was to give Ravi advice, what do you think he would say?
Chapter Thirteen – Ravi
◇ What happens at Ravi’s old school regarding a student named Hassan? What does this show us about Ravi’s character?
◇ What happens when Ravi answers Mrs. Beam’s question about the word *assimilate*? Why do you think the author includes this incident?
◇ What happens when Mrs. Frost comes into the classroom to see Joe?
◇ What do you think will happen when Joe and Ravi go to Mrs. Frost’s classroom?

Chapter Fourteen – Joe
◇ How did Joe feel when he had to start seeing Miss Frost? Why?
◇ What did Joe hear Ravi say to Miss Frost that probably upset him? Why do you think Ravi said this?
◇ How did Joe’s parents react when they heard about his APD? Why do you think they acted this way?
◇ How did Joe initially feel about Ravi? How does he feel about him now?
◇ What was important about Joe’s speech about M&Ms? How could his thinking of the candy have a deeper meaning to the story?
◇ When Ravi leaves Miss Frost’s room, which M&M does he select? Why do you think he picked this one?

Chapter Fifteen – Ravi
◇ How did Amma react when his teacher thought he had reading issues? How do you think she would react if she knew what was happening at school?
◇ Why does Ravi start reading the dictionary in Miss Frost’s room?
◇ What does Ravi discover when he is reading the dictionary? How does this make him feel?
◇ On page 84, Miss Frost says, “You shouldn’t assume things about a person before you know who they really are.” How is Ravi being a hypocrite regarding Joe?
Chapter Sixteen – Joe
   ◇ Why did Joe ask Miss Frost if she informed Mrs. Beam about his APD? What does he discover?
   ◇ What has been bothering Joe all afternoon? Why?
   ◇ At this point in the book, what do Ravi and Joe have in common? What makes them different?

Chapter Seventeen – Ravi
   ◇ What does Amma do with the red chilis and salt? Why?
   ◇ What does Amma make for Mrs. Beam? Why?
   ◇ What does it mean when Appa says, “Remember she has the black tongue.” (Page 96)
   ◇ When Ravi sees the American flag, what does he think about? Why?

Chapter Eighteen – Joe
   ◇ How does Lucy Mulligan treat Joe? How did she treat him in the past? Why do you think there has been a change?
   ◇ What does Dillon do when he asks to get a drink of water?

Chapter Nineteen – Ravi
   ◇ What was school life like for Ravi back in India?
   ◇ Why was Coach Victorine screaming at the end of the chapter?

Chapter Twenty – Joe
   ◇ How was Joe’s view about picking teams different from Ravi’s in the previous chapter? Why was there such a difference?
   ◇ What does Joe reveal about what happened to Ravi during the baseball game?
Chapter Twenty-One – Ravi
◊ What happens in the conversation between Ravi and Dillon on the way to the nurse’s office?
◊ Why do Dillon and Ravi have the conversation they do?
◊ On page 117, Ravi says, “Finally, I am where I belong.” Where does Ravi think he belongs? Why do you think he believes this?

Chapter Twenty-Two – Joe
◊ What happened when Celena took Ravi’s supplies to the nurse’s office?
◊ Do you think Mr. Barnes offered good advice to Joe regarding his relationship with Dillon?
◊ What does Joe mean when he says, “Once a zebra, always a zebra.” (Page 122)
◊ How does Joe feel when Ravi picks his seat at lunch?

Chapter Twenty-Three – Ravi
◊ What does Ravi notice about Dillon’s eyes?
◊ What happens when Ravi eats American chili? Why is this an issue for Ravi?
◊ Do you think Dillon and his friends knew there would be an issue with Ravi eating American chili?
◊ How does Ravi feel about Dillon and his friends at the end of the chapter?

Chapter Twenty-Four – Joe
◊ How does Joe feel about Ravi?

Chapter Twenty-Five – Ravi
◊ On page 132, Ravi says, “I look in the mirror and don’t even recognize my own face.” What does he mean by this?
◊ At this point in the book, what do Ravi and Joe have in common? What makes them different?
Chapter Twenty-Six – Joe
◊ What happens when Dillon wakes up for school?
◊ How does Joe’s father feel about Dillon?
◊ Joe repeats the word hate multiple times on pages 141 and 142. Why?
◊ How will Joe’s parents feel about him telling the truth?

Chapter Twenty-Seven – Ravi
◊ What happens when Ravi wakes up on Thursday morning?
◊ What does Ravi want to tell Amma? Do you think he should?

Chapter Twenty-Eight – Joe
◊ How does Joe spend his day off of school?
◊ What does Joe’s dad slip under his door?
◊ Why does Joe think about Mr. Barnes’ quote, “Writing can change the world”?
◊ What do you think Joe is going to bring for his personal reflection?

Chapter Twenty-Nine – Ravi
◊ How does Rai spend his day off?
◊ What do Perimma and Amma do for Ravi on his day off? Why do you think they do this?
◊ What do Perimma and Amma make for Ravi’s personal reflection? How does Ravi feel about this?
◊ What do you think grandfather’s idea is going to be?
◊ At this point in the book, what do Ravi and Joe have in common? What makes them different?

Chapter Thirty – Joe
◊ What does Joe’s mom announce? Why did she decide this?
◊ How does Joe’s mom react to his personal reflection project?
Chapter Thirty-One – Ravi
◊ Why does Ravi feel so much different when he is walking into school?

Chapter Thirty-Two – Joe
◊ What does Joe see when Dillon’s mom drops him off at school?
◊ What happens when Joe leaves his personal reflection object on his desk? Who do you think is responsible?

Chapter Thirty-Three – Ravi
◊ What does Ravi see in class?
◊ Since Ravi has seen what Joe has taken, what do you think he is going to do?

Chapter Thirty-Four – Joe
◊ Why does Joe compare himself to an empty dish?
◊ What does Dillon bring in for his personal reflection?

Chapter Thirty-Five – Ravi
◊ When Mrs. Beam calls Ravi up to see her, what does she want to tell him?
◊ Why does Ravi tell Mrs. Beam about his name pronunciation?
◊ What do you think Ravi was searching for in his desk?

Chapter Thirty-Six – Joe
◊ What happens when the class sees Ravi’s personal reflection object?
Chapter Thirty-Seven – Ravi
◊ What was in Ravi’s jar?
◊ What do we discover about Perippa and his life in India?
◊ Why did Ravi bring in leeches?
◊ What does Ravi place in Joe’s glass dish? Why do you think he still has this?

Chapter Thirty-Eight – Joe
◊ How does Joe know who is responsible for placing the candy in the glass dish?
◊ How do you think the rest of the plot will change because of this incident?

Chapter Thirty-Nine – Ravi
◊ Ravi compares Dillon to the leeches in his jar. Do you think this is an accurate comparison?

Chapter Forty – Joe
◊ On page 195 it says, “He’s got his eyes glued to the jar of leeches.” What do you think Dillon is up to?

Chapter Forty-One – Ravi
◊ When Dillon is trying to guess who wrote Quitting is not an option, why do you think Ravi winks at him?

Chapter Forty-Two – Joe
◊ When the class discovers the notecard Quitting is not an option belongs to Ravi, how does Dillon respond? Why do you think he acts this way?
Chapter Forty-Three – Ravi
◊ What happens when Ravi is telling his story about how leeches and his notecard are connected?

Chapter Forty-Four – Joe
◊ “I look at that beautiful blue double peanut M&M sitting in the bowl in front of me and… woop, zoop, sloop…” (Page 205). Why does Joe say/think the words in italics?
◊ What do you think Joe’s great idea is?

Chapter Forty-Five – Ravi
◊ What does the folded paper on Ravi’s desk say?
◊ What do you think is going to happen?

Chapter Forty-Six – Joe
◊ On page 209, Joe says, “Zebras have to stick together.” Why does Joe compare himself and Ravi to zebras?
◊ Why does Dillon come flying out of the classroom when they are on their way to the library?

Chapter Forty-Seven – Ravi
◊ Why does Ravi decide not to finish telling the class his story?
◊ Which card does Ravi pick? Why did he want that card?

Chapter Forty-Eight – Joe
◊ How has life changed for Joe in the past few days?
Chapter Forty-Nine – Ravi

◊ On page 215 it says, “Winning is not always about shining the brightest.” What does this quote mean?
◊ Why do you think Ravi has finally realized the truth about this quote?
◊ What happens when Ravi enters the cafeteria on Friday?
◊ At this point in the book, what do Ravi and Joe have in common? What makes them different?