

“President Cleveland, Where Are You?” Discussion Prompts

Name_____ Period_____

Page 230 ~ Lines 1-7

~ What do you learn about the narrator?

~Would you envy Rollie Tremaine if you were the narrator? Why or why not?

~In what ways is Rollie different from the narrator and his friends?

~Why do you think the narrator and his friends put up with Rollie?

Page 232 ~ Lines 25-40

~The narrator is anxious to buy new cards with his extra money. Do you spend your money as soon as you get it, or do you save it?

~What do you learn about Jerry's father's job in lines 35-37?

~Reread lines 47-59. What does his attitude toward Armand tell you about Jerry?

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~In what ways are Armand's and Jerry's feelings about family the same and different?

Page 234 ~ Lines 104-132

This passage develops the character of Jerry as he tries to make up for his stinginess?

~How do the boys react to the idea of collecting President cards?

~Once Jerry realizes that there are no Ken Maynard cards to buy, why does he suddenly feel guilty?

~What is he hoping to do if he can find Armand in time? Does he succeed?

~Reread lines 123-132. Jerry is suddenly concerned about finding his brother. Why is he feeling this way?

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~What lesson about family does Armand hope that Jerry has learned?

~Did you think collecting the President cards would become popular with Jerry and his friends? Why or why not?

~What adds enjoyment to collecting President cards?

~How do you think the story title fits into the story?

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~Reread lines 171-177. What do you learn about Jerry through his thoughts about the glove?

Lines 178-196 show the rising action of the plot: Jerry desire for the glove intensifies as his home life becomes more difficult.

~Why are the boys delighted at Rollie Tremaine’s frustration?

~Why doesn’t Rollie Tremaine just buy a glove?

~Why is Jerry obsessed with the cards more than ever?

~Who do you think will get the glove?

~Reread lines 197- 201. How is Jerry’s family affected by his father’s unemployment?

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~Do you think that Armand’s behavior is natural for someone in love?

~Why is Jerry puzzled by the letter?

~Based on Armand’s comment in line 219, what obstacle might he face in his relationship with Sally?

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~Reread lines 235-240. How does Jerry feel about Armand and his troubles?

~Why is the card competition at its most exciting at this point in the story?

~How does the approach of baseball season make the competition more fierce?

~Why might Rollie’s comment that he will pay five dollars for a Grover Cleveland be significant?

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~ Lines 276-300 present the climax of the story: Jerry completes his card collection. What does Armand need before he can go to the dance with Sally?

~What is Jerry depressed about? How does Armand help Jerry?

~Does Jerry get his Grover Cleveland card?

~What happens to allow Armand to go to the dance?

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~Reread lines 313-316. What does Jerry’s confession tell you about the kind of person he is?

~What does Jerry risk by doing the right thing for his family? What does his action illustrate about his priorities?

~Lines 311-339 present the falling action of the story, when Jerry faces the consequences of doing the right thing for his family.

Why is Roger upset?

~What does Jerry confess to him? What is Roger’s first reaction?

~How does Jerry feel about his actions?

~Will Roger and Jerry remain friends? How do you know?
