

Study Guide Questions For Tangerine

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Questions to Consider for
Tangerine, by Edward Bloor (Part I: Pages 1-58)

Introduction

1. From where and to where do the Fishers move in the introduction of this novel?

Friday, August 18

2. What does Paul see out of the car window when they cross into Tangerine County?

3. On page 8, Paul doesn't smile when his mom makes a little joke about why they are burning up the trees. He also suggests that they should build houses or homeless shelters out of the trees instead. What might this reveal about his character?

4. On page 11, Paul becomes frustrated as soon as football is mentioned, noting that he has had to listen to the Erik Fisher Football Devians too many times. Why do you think he might feel this way?

Saturday, August 19

5. Describe/Explain what a truck fire is, and discuss how this might affect the Fisher's living situation.

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Study guide questions for *Tangerine* can be an invaluable resource for students and educators alike, helping to deepen comprehension and encourage critical thinking about the text. Edward Bloor's novel, "*Tangerine*," is rich with themes of family dynamics, friendship, bullying, and social justice, making it a compelling read for young adults. This guide will provide an array of study questions that can facilitate discussions and reflections on the significant aspects of the story, as well as aid in preparation for tests or essays.

Overview of *Tangerine*

Before diving into the study guide questions, it's essential to have a brief overview of the novel's plot and its main characters. "*Tangerine*" follows the life of Paul Fisher, a visually impaired boy who moves with his family to Tangerine County, Florida. The story unfolds as Paul navigates his new environment, grappling with his family issues, making new friends, and discovering his passion for soccer. Through Paul's eyes, readers explore the complexities of adolescence, the impact of peer relationships, and the struggle for identity.

Character Analysis

Understanding the characters in "Tangerine" is crucial for comprehending the narrative's depth. The following questions focus on key characters and their development throughout the novel.

1. Paul Fisher

1. How does Paul's visual impairment shape his identity and experiences throughout the novel?
2. In what ways does Paul's relationship with his brother Erik affect his self-esteem and perspective on life?
3. Discuss the significance of Paul's friendships, particularly with characters like Joey and Luis. How do these relationships influence his character growth?

2. Erik Fisher

1. What role does Erik play in the family dynamics? How does he impact Paul's life?
2. Analyze Erik's character. What are his motivations, and how do they drive the plot?
3. How do Erik's actions reflect broader themes of bullying and aggression in "Tangerine"?

3. The Fisher Family

1. How does the Fisher family dynamic contribute to the overall themes of the novel?
2. Discuss the differences between Paul and Erik's parents. How do their parenting styles shape the brothers' lives?
3. In what ways does the family's move to Tangerine County serve as a catalyst for the events in the story?

Themes and Symbols

"Tangerine" is rich with themes and symbols that enhance its narrative. The following questions encourage deeper analysis of these elements.

1. The Theme of Identity

1. How does Paul's journey reflect the theme of self-discovery and identity?
2. In what ways does the setting of Tangerine County contribute to the characters' understanding of themselves?
3. Discuss how sports serve as a means for characters to explore their identities, especially for Paul.

2. Bullying and Peer Pressure

1. How is bullying portrayed in the novel, and what are its effects on Paul and other characters?
2. Discuss the role of peer pressure in the decisions made by Paul and his friends. How do they navigate these challenges?
3. What lessons does the novel offer about standing up against bullying and supporting friends?

3. Family Dynamics

1. Explore how family relationships impact individual character development in "Tangerine."
2. What does the novel suggest about the importance of communication within a family?
3. How do the Fisher family's struggles mirror larger societal issues?

4. Nature and Setting

1. How does the setting of Tangerine County serve as a character in itself?
2. Discuss the symbolism of the tangerine groves and their significance in the story.
3. In what ways does the natural environment influence the events and character interactions in the novel?

Plot Development

Understanding the plot structure is crucial for analyzing the story's progression and its key moments.

1. Exposition

1. How does the author introduce Paul's character and his circumstances in the beginning chapters?
2. What information is provided about the Fisher family's background, and how does this set the stage for the story?

2. Rising Action

1. Identify key events that contribute to the rising action of the story. How do these events increase tension?
2. Discuss the importance of the soccer games in developing the plot. How do they serve as turning points for Paul?

3. Climax

1. What is the climax of the story, and how does it change the characters' trajectories?
2. Analyze how Paul confronts his fears and the implications of this moment for his character development.

4. Falling Action and Resolution

1. How does the falling action resolve the various conflicts presented throughout the novel?
2. Discuss the ending of "Tangerine." What message do you think the author is trying to convey through the resolution of the story?

Discussion and Reflection Questions

In addition to character and thematic analyses, these questions encourage deeper reflection and personal connection to the text.

1. What was your initial reaction to Paul's character? Did your feelings change as the story progressed?
2. How did your understanding of the themes evolve throughout the novel?
3. Reflect on a character you relate to the most. How do their experiences mirror or contrast with your own?
4. What did you learn about the importance of community and friendship from the relationships depicted in "Tangerine"?

Essay Questions

For students looking to explore the themes and characters of "Tangerine" in greater depth, consider the following essay prompts:

1. Discuss the role of sports in "Tangerine" and how they contribute to the development of the main characters.
2. Analyze the impact of family dynamics on Paul Fisher's journey toward self-acceptance.
3. Explore the significance of the setting in "Tangerine" and how it shapes the characters' experiences.
4. Evaluate the portrayal of bullying in the novel. What solutions or insights does it offer for addressing such issues in real life?

Conclusion

Utilizing study guide questions for *Tangerine* can greatly enhance the reading experience, allowing readers to engage critically with the text. By exploring characters, themes, plot development, and personal reflections, students can gain a comprehensive understanding of Edward Bloor's novel. Whether preparing for a discussion, writing an essay, or simply aiming to deepen their appreciation for the story, these questions serve as a valuable tool for any reader delving into the complexities of "Tangerine."

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Tangerine' by Edward Bloor?

The main theme of 'Tangerine' is the struggle for identity and the importance of family and friendship, as well as the challenges of overcoming adversity.

How does Paul Fisher's vision impairment affect his life in 'Tangerine'?

Paul's vision impairment shapes his experiences and relationships, leading him to feel isolated and misunderstood, but it also drives him to prove his worth and find his passion in soccer.

What role does the setting of Tangerine, Florida play in the novel?

The setting of Tangerine, Florida, with its unique climate and community dynamics, serves as a backdrop for the story, highlighting themes of environmental issues and the contrast between different social classes.

Who are the key supporting characters in 'Tangerine' and their significance?

Key supporting characters include Erik Fisher, Paul's brother, who embodies bullying and competition, and Joey Costello, who represents friendship and loyalty. Their interactions with Paul help to develop his character and the central conflicts of the story.

What is the significance of soccer in Paul's life in 'Tangerine'?

Soccer is a crucial outlet for Paul, allowing him to showcase his talents, build confidence, and form friendships, ultimately becoming a symbol of his growth and independence.

How does the novel address issues of bullying and family dynamics?

The novel explores bullying through Erik's aggressive behavior and the impact it has on Paul, while also delving into family dynamics, particularly the lack of support Paul feels from his parents compared to Erik.

What does the title 'Tangerine' symbolize in the novel?

The title 'Tangerine' symbolizes the potential for growth and the hidden beauty within seemingly ordinary circumstances, reflecting the characters' journeys and the vibrant life in their community.

How does Paul navigate his relationship with his parents throughout 'Tangerine'?

Paul navigates a complex relationship with his parents, often feeling neglected and overshadowed by Erik, but ultimately seeks their approval while learning to assert his own identity and ambitions.

What events lead to Paul's ultimate acceptance of himself in 'Tangerine'?

Paul's acceptance of himself is influenced by his experiences in soccer, his friendships, and confronting the truth about his family, particularly during significant events like the soccer matches and the revelation about Erik's actions.

In what ways does 'Tangerine' highlight environmental issues?

The novel highlights environmental issues through the depiction of the community's struggles with sinkholes and the impact of industrialization on the natural landscape, paralleling the characters' personal challenges.

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