**Josef**

**Respond:** Josef said he’d like to be oblivious to what is going on in this situation. Do you think it’s better to be oblivious and happy or aware and concerned? Explain your answer.

**Character Traits:** List some traits that describe Captain Schroeder.

**Give a 1-2 sentence summary of this section.**

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**Isabel**

**Close Read:** Why don’t the passengers on Isabel’s craft want to return to Cuba? Why don’t they trust Castro?

**Predict:** Do you think they will get to Miami? Why or why not?

**Give a 1-2 sentence summary of this section.**

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**Mahmoud**

**Respond:** Mahmoud’s father refuses to claim asylum in Hungary. Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?

**Connect:** Mahmoud, his family and the other refugees are treated like prisoners. Describe how you believe refugees who enter the United States should be treated.

**Give a 1-2 sentence summary of this section.**
Reply: Belgium, Holland, France and England agreed to divide up the passengers on the St. Louis. But what was their ultimate plan?

Predict: At the end of this section, we learn some sad information. What is it? What do you predict will happen?

Infer: Lito relays the story of the St. Louis and how he “just did his job” and sent the Jews away from Cuba. Infer his feelings about his part in this.

Connect: In what way does Lito sacrifice himself to make entry into Miami possible for his family? Can you imagine ever being able to sacrifice yourself for the good of others? Under what circumstances?

Analyze: Mahmoud thinks that “being invisible was so much easier.” Explain what he means by this.

Respond: Mahmoud’s father’s mood has totally changed. What is the reason for this mood swing?
**Analyze:** Josef raises a good point – he and his family are fleeing to leave and the Germans want them gone. So, what would be the storm troopers’ purpose in stopping them from leaving?

**Predict:** What decision does the storm trooper ask Mama to make? Predict what will happen.

**Respond:** At one point in this section, Isabel has the option to get to safety, but it means leaving her family behind. Imagine there was a situation where you had to choose either danger with your family or freedom and safety, but you have to leave your family behind. What would you do?

**Connect:** This section describes a caravan of refugees heading to Austria. It is very similar to the current caravan of migrants working their way to the United States. What do you think the US do about the caravan in the news? Does hearing such similar stories in the novel sway your opinion?
**Week 6, The Ending**

**Isabel**
- Isabel’s family is living with ________________.
- Mami made money by ________________.
- Papi got a job ________________.
- Senora Castillo was planning to go back to school to become a ________________.

What happened to Lito?
________________________
________________________
________________________

Senor Castillo was planning to open a ________________.

Luis and Amara plan to get ________________.

The song Isabel plays is ________________.

Respond: What is the significance of the song Isabel plays?

**Connections**

* At the end of the novel, Mahmoud and his family now live in ________________.
* Mahmoud makes the connection that Berlin was once “reduced to a pile of rubble” much like ________________.
* We learn that Mahmoud’s family was being hosted by ________________ and her husband.

Respond: What gift does Frau Rosenberg give to Waleed? Why is this significant?

What happened to Josef and his mother?
________________________
________________________
________________________

Respond: How do you feel regarding the outcome of Josef’s story?

What happened to Josef’s father?
________________________
________________________
________________________

On the day the Nazis asked Josef’s mother to make a choice, what happened to Ruthie? How did she survive?
________________________
________________________
________________________

How does the Star of David relate to both Josef and Mahmoud’s story?
**ISABEL**

Isabel’s family is living with **Guillermo (Lito’s brother)**.

Mami made money by **opening an in–house daycare**.

Papi got a job **driving a taxi**.

Senora Castillo was planning to go back to school to become a/an **American lawyer**.

What happened to Lito?

He got deported back to Cuba and **had to remain there**.

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**CONNECTIONS**

*At the end of the novel, Mahmoud and his family now live in **Berlin, Germany**.

*Mahmoud makes the connection that Berlin was once “reduced to a pile of rubble” much like **Aleppo**.

*We learn that Mahmoud’s family was being hosted by **Ruthie** and her husband.

**Respond:** What gift does Frau Rosenberg give to Waleed? Why is this significant?

She gives him a stuffed rabbit. It is significant because one of the few possessions she owned when they fled Germany was a stuffed rabbit. It helped to comfort her then, like she is hoping it will comfort Waleed now.

**Respond:** How did the author resolve Hana’s story? Was this a satisfying resolution for you? Explain.

Hana’s story remains unresolved. Ruthie tells Mahmoud that he saved her and she is alive somewhere. She promises Mahmoud that they will find her. Some students will be disappointed that they didn’t get “the” answer; others may enjoy coming up with the solution they choose.

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**MAHMOUD**

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**SEF**

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What happened to Josef and his mother?

When Josef’s mother couldn’t make the decision about which child to send, Josef sacrificed himself when he offered to go. Ultimately, they were both sent to a concentration camp where both of them died.

**Respond:** How do you feel regarding the outcome of Josef’s story?

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What happened to Josef’s father?

He remained in Cuba where he lived for many years until he died. He was never reunited with any members of his family.

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On the day the Nazis asked Josef’s mother to make a choice, what happened to Ruthie? How did she survive?

The Nazis left her alone in the woods. An “old French lady” took her in and she lived there until she was able to return to Germany and search for her family.

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**Respond:** What is the significance of the song Isabel played and the way she played it?

It shows that she is recognizing and accepting her new home in America, while she is still able to be true to who she is and maintain ties to her homeland, Cuba.
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