## *Synchro Boy* Whole Book Discussion/Essay Questions

What is the main source of conflict in Synchro Boy? How does it interact with secondary conflicts? How does Bart resolve his internal conflicts through the external action in the story?

Does every choice Bart make (for good or bad) create what happens next in his story? Are there places when it doesn’t?

What is Bart Lively’s biggest fear? What is Chelsea’s? What is Erika’s? How do their fears interact with each other to create interpersonal conflict?

What statement is the author making about gender in sport?

How do Bart’s two coaches – from racing and synchro – view Bart’s role as a male swimmer in these two sports?

Over the course of the book, Chelsea Gates changes for the better. What were the events that led to her transformation?

Some of the characters struggle with perfectionism. How does perfectionism act as an obstacle for the characters? How does it drive action in the story?

Bart is inspired by a real-life hero. How does Bill May give Bart the confidence to pursue his dream and make room for himself in the sport?

Erika says, “I know you’re happiest when you’re not fighting anyone’s idea of who you are …” When is Bart fighting other peoples’ ideas about him? Cite specific examples. How does this hold Bart back from accepting himself?

Is Synchro Boy a coming out novel, or is it pointedly **not** a coming out story? Cite textual evidence to support your view.

How does Bart’s relationship with his parents affect his drive to do what he feels passionate about? How does his mother’s support and his father’s withholding each play a part?

How do the characters’ friendships in Synchro Boy support and challenge them? Give specific examples from any of the friendships.

Describe Bart’s relationship with his coaches. How do the two coaches push and pull Bart toward/away from his goals?

(More to come!)