

*The Gangster We Are All Looking For*

Group Study Questions

Pages 3-35

1. Identify the characters in the narrative: list them by name (if they have one) and cite one or two facts about them.
2. Identify the places in the narrative: list them by name and cite one or two facts about them.
3. Are there any signs that the narrative is written from the perspective of a small child? Why? How? Give an example.
4. Describe the relationships that are developed. How do the characters interact with each other?
5. Give an example of people not saying what they mean.
6. Give an example of a miscommunication based on cultural difference.
7. Give an example of the importance of learning English in this narrative.
8. Find an excerpt—a paragraph or shorter—that you think is particularly interesting.
9. What do you think the metaphorical significance is of the trapped butterfly and glass animals? Explain.
10. What do you know about the mother figure?
11. Americans houses are full of stuff: “Shelves bowing under the weight of book and files lined the walls, and in the center of the room was a large square desk, its top covered with pens papers, receipt books, a tray of keys and spare change” (22). What is the narrator’s relationship to these things? Why is it so carefully described?