

Do you think Manase has such an intense passion for stones solely because he enjoys it? Or is there another reason?

Do you think there is a purpose to the intense imagery shown for the majority of the chapter?

On page 13 it says, "The stones he found in the riverhead no longer seemed satisfactory..." Do you think he will ever be satisfied?

Do you think Manase prefers his "crystal world" (48) to his real one?

Do you see the captain have as big of an influence on Manase's life as the lance corporal?

My discussion was largely based on Manase's stone collection. We discussed if we thought it was an addiction of sorts, as it clearly seemed to not be a normal pastime passion. You helped establish that it shouldn't be described as an addiction, so we pivoted the discussion in a different direction. We talked about the large impact the lance corporal had on his life, as he continued to use the corporal's words through his passion for stones. I put a point out there that was a little bit of a reach, but that maybe the nonstop imagery of the process Manase went through for his stones was a sort of teaching moment for the reader, much like how the lance corporal taught Manase. The story isn't in a first-person account, so it was a bit of a stretch, but I wanted to put abstract thoughts into the discussion when it started to fizzle out. I coaxed my peers to engage by asking follow-up questions so their responses as well as trying to direct questions towards people who weren't talking as much as others. Some of the questions I thought would be more open discussions ended up being able to be answered in a sentence, so I had to try to improvise some questions. After reading the whole book, a lot of my questions ended up being answered directly in the text, especially the one about the captain, so I guess they flopped as well. I think if the classroom was better made for discussions it would help more people to discuss. We rearranged it a little during the Okinawan Literature discussion, and it helped more people feel like they could participate because they could see who was talking. I think in order to get a better discussion, I should come more prepared as well. I know the discussion is only supposed to be on the first part of the book, but I think if I read the whole book before coming up with questions I could ask open-ended ones that weren't answered later in the book.