



Nothing But the Truth

Discussion Questions

Consider the following questions. **While you are not required to write out answers for them**, understanding these questions will help you with the assessment of the reading when school starts in September:

1. Before Philip is transferred into Ms. Narwin's homeroom, he is a student in her English class. Philip writes about his dislike for the class. Ms. Narwin also notes her frustrations with his lack of motivation in her class. Do you think that her frustrations with Philip in English class impact the way she reacts toward him in homeroom? Ms. Narwin writes, "One has to be vigilant and firm. As well as consistent and fair" (55). Do you think that she is taking her own advice? Why or why not?
2. After "the incident" first happens, Philip is very bold about sticking up for himself (75). This creates quite a commotion, and the incident soon appears in the newspaper. When the article comes out, Philip's mom mentions, "He looked like he was reading his own funeral notice" (123). Review the newspaper article on page 118. Who does the article seem to favor? Why do you think that Philip reacts the way that he does?
3. After Philip is transferred out of Ms. Narwin's class, Dr. Doane explains, "We are trying to be evenhanded here..." Ms. Narwin replies, "He's a student. I'm a teacher. Hands are not meant to be even" (177). Do you think that moving Philip out of the class was being "evenhanded?" Why or why not? Do you agree with Ms. Narwin's statement about the roles of teachers and students? Why or why not?
4. Which character in the text do you think influences Philip the most? Why? Is the influence positive or negative? How does that impact his actions? Think of one person in your life who influences you. How has that person had an impact on you and your actions?
5. American politician Adlai Stevenson stated, "Patriotism... is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." According to this definition of patriotism, is Philip patriotic? Why? Support your answer with specific examples from the text.
6. Discuss the format of this text. How did it affect you as a reader, your enjoyment, interpretation, and understanding of the text?