

Sticks Reading Responses

Sticks RR: Chapter 1

- 1) Write a paragraph to describe the setting of the story.
- 2) Arlen claims that math is the secret weapon in playing pool. Explain what he means by that statement.
- 3) On the back of this sheet, draw an "Arful Artist" illustration from Chapter 1.

Sticks RR: Chapter 2

- 1) On page 13, Mrs. Riggles, the history teacher says, "To understand where we're going, we've got to know where we've been." What do you think this quote means?
- 2) Why is it taking so long for Arlen to get his treehouse built?
- 3) Write the metaphor, which the author used to describe Mangler on page 17 and the simile on page 19. Also, why do you think the author chose to use figurative language in these instances?

Sticks Reading Response: Chapter 3

- 1) Mickey's mom is a busy woman. What are her "jobs"?
- 2) On page 22, it says that mom "smiles tired" and on page 23, it says that mom is "smiling sad." Describe what these statements mean.
- 3) On page 27, Mickey says, "I think a lot of the world's problems could be solved by a couple of guys shooting a few racks down at the local hall." What does this mean?
- 4) On page 27 - 28, many of the shop owners and residents of Cruckstown are introduced. How was the author able to reveal so many names in such a short space?
- 5) What is revealed about the cowboy by the end of the chapter?

Sticks Reading Response: Chapter 4

- 1) Why do you think Mom got so upset with Joseph at dinner?

Sticks Reading Response: Chapter 5

- 1) On page 42, the author writes, "Arlen sees patterns in everything." What did the author mean? Where do you find patterns?
- 2) Describe a connection (personal, text-to-text, text-to-world) you had in chapter 5.

Sticks Reading Response: Chapter 6

1) Create a chart like the one below in your notebook and fill it in with the necessary information in full sentences.

Character	Main Goal	Competitor & Explanation

2) Who did Mickey write the letter to and why? Do you think it was a good idea or not? Why? What are the possible results of the letter?

Chapter 7

1. Big Earl Reed told Mickey that the “first one just helps you get ready for the others.” What did he mean by that?
2. Explain how Arlen uses his square cube? Why does he do this?

Chapter 8

1. Why was Mom upset with Joseph Alvarez?
2. Why do you think Mom is worried about Joseph helping Mickey with his pool game?

Chapter 9

1. Why is Arlen upset that the science fair has been moved to Town Hall?
2. What did Arlen do to save the boys money on the candy?
3. On page 77, Poppy describes Mickey with a metaphor. What is the metaphor, and what did it mean?
4. Why do you think Mickey is playing so poorly now? Do you think Joseph Alvarez will be able to help Mickey? Why or why not?

Chapter 10

1. On page 82, Joseph Alvarez tells Mickey, “You can’t learn to win until you learn how to lose.” What do you think he mean by this statement?
2. Why do you think Joseph Alvarez brought Mickey to GameLand instead of staying in Vernon’s Pool Hall?
3. Describe Mickey’s experience in GameLand? How was he feeling?

Sticks RR: Chapter 11-12

1) How is Mickey feeling during his training with Joseph? Do you think Joseph is helping Mickey? Explain. (Use evidence from the book to support your answers.)

Sticks: Chapter 13-14 Reading Response

Describe a time in which you needed to have *ganas*. Make sure to explain in detail, the situation, why you needed it, how or if you got it, and what the results were. In what way(s) was your experience similar to Mickey’s?

Sticks RR: Chapters 15-17

- 1) In what ways is Joseph Alvarez proving that he's changed? Why do you think it is so important for him to prove this to Mom and Mickey?
- 2) What is your feeling about Joseph now? Explain with supporting details.
- 3) In what ways have Mickey, Arlen, and Francine all seen the "ups and downs" in their quests? Use a chart in your notebook like the one below.

Character	Goal	Positive Events	Obstacles
Mickey			
Arlen			
Francine			

Sticks RR: Chapters 18-19

1. In what ways is Mickey's soldier letter based on Mickey's current experiences?
2. How would you describe Mickey's attitude in the pool hall after leaving the doctor?
3. On page 150, why does Mom get upset with Joseph's advice to Mickey?
4. How is Mickey like Paul Revere?
5. In what ways is *ganas* having a **negative** effect on Mickey?
6. What important lesson did Mickey learn watching his dad's video on p. 151?

Sticks RR: Chapter 20

- 1) In chapter 20, Petie's cousin is big. List the sentences or phrases that the author writes to help us imagine *how* big.
- 2) Why is Mickey upset that he's facing Buck at this point in the tournament?

Sticks RR: Chapter 21

- 1) How was Mickey able to win the match against Buck?
- 2) How did Buck's parents react during and after the match? Why?

Sticks RR: Chapter 22 & 23

- 1) In the book, friendship was referred to as: why you can truly rely on someone. Tell about a character that was able to rely on another character. Then, tell about a friend you can truly rely on.