

QAR for *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi

Purpose: To get the kids thinking beyond just the text and to help them realize that they know a lot more about things than it may seem.

When to use: You can use this at any point in the novel, but the questions I have included are from chapter 9.

How to administer: Hand out a worksheet with the questions on it and let the kids have time to fill it out, in or out of class.

Have an equal number of questions that are “right there”, “think and search”, and “on my own”.

Right there question: is found right in the text, usually a fill-in-the-blank answer.

Think and search: can be found in the text, but is never explicitly stated.

On my own: is never stated in the text, but along with the reading and the student’s own knowledge, it can be found and stated.

Evaluation: The students should fill in the worksheet with their own answers; let them work in pairs if that is conducive to your classroom environment.

The students could use this deeper thinking worksheet to develop their own ideas on the issues and themes of the novel, using what they already know and what they learn from the novel to guide them.

Example Questions from Chapter 9:

Right there: Who received school budget money and for what cause?

Answer: (P.36) Kimberly Howard received money for a course in marching-band music.

Think and search: Why does Miss Narwin think English education is more important than music education or marching band specifically?

Answer: (P.36-7) All marching band is bread and circuses. The community’s values are skewed if it values band over English.

*That is how her view comes across. She doesn’t say anything for English Education here, but she does slam band—which could and should cause some controversy in the classroom and show how she reacts inappropriately as well. She asked for the money too late, and so there wasn’t any when she got in line. That is fair.

On my own: How much time do Philip’s parents usually spend in his life, talking to him and intervening in his goings on?

Answer: From their conversations with each other and with him, you can tell that Philip’s parents pretty much leave him alone. They don’t seem too concerned about his grades even until he tells his father the lie that he might not even try out for track because he doesn’t want to. The fact that he lies to his father also suggests that there is a communication problem there as well.