



Nowhere Boy

Katherine Marsh

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

August Book of the Month



Pre-reading questions

1. Based on the title and the cover of the book, what do you predict will happen in the story? What details influence your prediction?
2. Do some quick research on Syria and Syrian refugees. What information did you find?
3. If you had to leave your home behind with just one backpack, what would you bring with you? Why did you choose those items?

Post-reading questions

1. Max goes through a lot of different experiences throughout the book. Talk about how Max changed and grew from beginning to end.
2. By the end of the book, both boys regard each other as heroes. What heroic qualities did you see in Max and Ahmed? What do you think made them come to think of each other as heroes?
3. ****Spoiler alert**** Max lies to his parents about Ahmed for a significant amount of time in the book. What are your thoughts on his actions? Was his lying justified? What would you have done if you were in Max's shoes?
4. What similarities did you see between Max and Ahmed? What differences did you see between them?
5. Why do you think the inspector and Madame Pauline had a negative view of the refugees?
6. Max's friends teach him a lot throughout the book, and correct some of his misconceptions about people who are different from him. One example is in chapter 28 when Max is asking Farah to help Ahmed because he's Muslim like her. Re-read the chapter and talk about Farah's reaction and the information she gives Max. Have you ever had a misconception about someone that they corrected? Did they do it kindly?
7. After befriending Ahmed, Max realizes that being able to go to school is a privilege. How would your life be different if you didn't have access to school?

Post-reading activities

1. Research the Syrian refugee crisis and create a current issues portfolio with the information you find. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions to enter it into the Tome Current Issues Portfolio competition.
2. Write a blog article reviewing *Nowhere Boy*. Follow the guidelines to enter it into the Tome Blog competition.

More About This Book

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

<http://katherinemarsh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Nowhere-Boy-teacher-guide.pdf>

Official Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/xmb1SpkD7uA>

Author's Website: katherinemarsh.com