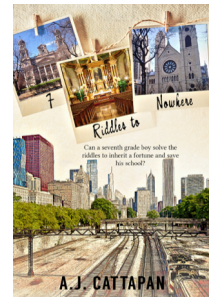


Seven Riddles to Nowhere

Discussion Questions



1. What would you do in Kam's situation if you were asked to complete an assignment that you thought was impossible to do (like Kam having to give an oral report in front of his class)?
2. In chapter 2, Kam is bullied by T.J. and Marc. How is his experience similar to or different from bullying you may have witnessed or experienced? What advice would you give to Kam about how to deal with bullies like T.J. and Marc?
3. When Kam pulls Old Man Engelbert's wheelchair out of the mud, what does this tell you about Kam's personality? Do you think it was an effective way for the author to let us see what Kam is like outside of school?
4. Compare and contrast Kam's mom with his grandmother. What benefits do you think Kam gets from living with both of them?
5. If you found out your school might close and that you'd be sent to another school away from your familiar teachers and friends, how would you react?
6. If you could hang out with any of the four friends (Kam, Nakia, Vin, or Analyn) for one night, which one would you choose and why?
7. Kam is a little nervous about traveling into the city of Chicago with just his three friends. Recall a time when you've had to travel some place new. How did it make you feel? Were you glad you made the trip?
8. When Kam starts getting worried about the school, Gram tells him, "Don't worry about St. Jude's, Kameron. God will provide." Have you or anyone you know ever been through a tough time, but in the end, God provided what was really needed?
9. When the four friends get to St. Procopius, the topic of Vin's difficulties with the Spanish language come up again. Vin's very smart, but this is one area he really struggles in. When you find yourself struggling to learn something new, what do you do to succeed? Where do you go for help?

- 10. At Holy Name Cathedral, the four friends discover the four symbols related to the four Gospel writers. Evaluate whether or not you think each of these is a good symbol for that evangelist.**
- 11. If you had been Kam, would you have trusted the three blondes who wanted to work with them? Why or why not?**
- 12. Throughout the churches, the friends encounter all sorts of religious art (statues, murals, stained glass windows). Why do you think churches use such works of art? What purpose might they have beyond just looking pretty?**
- 13. Why do you think Kam is able to talk around his friends, but he clams up when others, especially adults, are around?**
- 14. Why is it significant that the Nativity piece that Kam found was a shepherd boy instead of one of the Wise Men or an angel?**
- 15. What would you have done with the money if you had won the contest?**
- 16. What do you think will happen to Kam next? Do you think he will talk in school the next day, or will he still keep quiet around adults?**
- 17. One of the themes in this story is the importance of community. Why do you think it's so important for Kam to feel like he is part of a community?**