

Name: _____

Date: _____

PRE-READING QUESTIONS – ALL AMERICAN BOYS

Book Groups

JOURNAL

On your own, you will select one of the journal prompts below. On a separate sheet of paper, write your response to your selected prompt.

- (1) Write about a time when you had the courage to speak up about something even though it made others upset with you.
- (2) Write about a time when either you or someone that you know was accused of something you/he didn't do. How did you/ the person you know feel?
- (3) Write about a time you felt pressured to believe something in order to remain loyal to your family or friends.
- (4) Write about a time when either you or someone that you know was judged for something based upon your/his race. How did you/the person you know feel?

COVER ANALYSIS

As a group, you will analyze the cover of your novel. Then, you will make predictions about the text using your analysis. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

- **COLORS**
 - Why do you think that these colors were used?
 - What might they represent?
- **IMAGES**
 - What images are used? What might they symbolize?
 - How are the images positioned? What might this positioning symbolize?
- **CHARACTER**
 - What can you already tell about the boy on the cover based on his raised hands?
 - What type of character do you think he is?
 - What can you infer about him based off this cover?
- **TITLE**
 - What does it mean to be an "All American Boy"?
 - What role do you think the label "All American Boy" plays in the book?
 - Why do you think the "o" in "Boys" is the only red letter in the title?

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

As a group, you will read the passage below. After, your group will discuss the passage questions. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

"I was just trying to get my phone out of my bag when she fell over me—" I tried to explain, but the policeman shut me down quick.

"Shut up," he barked, coming closer.

"Wait, wait, I—"

"I said shut up!" he roared, now rushing me, grabbing me by the arm. "Did you hear me? You deaf or something?" He led me toward the door while walkie-talkie-ing that he needed backup.

Backup? For what? For who?

"No, you don't understand," I pleaded, unsure of what was happening. "I have the money right here!" With my free hand, I reached into my pocket to grab the dollar I had designated for those stupid chips. But before I could even get my fingers on the money, the cop had knotted me up in a submission hold, my arms twisted behind me, pain searing up to my shoulders.

1. Why do you think the police officer refused to let Rashad speak/explain?
2. Why do you think the police officer felt the need to call for backup?
3. What word would you use to describe Rashad in this scene? Support your word choice with evidence from the passage.
4. What word would you use to describe the police officer in this scene? Support your word choice with evidence from the passage.
5. Do you think that the ending of this scene could change if the police officer or Rashad acted differently? Why or why not?

RESEARCH

As a group, you will research the questions below. You are not just "guessing" answers. Instead, you are using online resources to find information about each question. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

1. What is the definition of "racism"?
2. In what ways is racism still alive in our society today?
3. What is the legal definition of "police brutality"?
4. What are the basic beliefs of the "Black Lives Matter" movement?
5. How is the freedom of speech used to promote change in society today?