

Lawn Boy
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What is something that you plan to do over the summer?
- What does an investment mean to you?
- Would you hand over all your money to a man who you have never met before? Why or why not?

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What do the lawn boy's parents do for work? (Ch. Forward)
- How does the boy feel about the mower? (Ch.1)
- What happened today? How much money did he make in total? Based on the last sentence, what do you think might happen next? (Ch.2)
- Who is Arnold? What does he offer? What is stock? (Ch.3)
- Who is Pasqual? What does he do? (Ch.4)
- Do you think it is smart for the boy to give all the money to Arnold? Why or why not? (Ch.5)
- Does Anything seem strange to you? What would you remind the boy of at this moment? (Ch.6)
- Is Arnold's explanation clear to you? What follow-up questions would you ask him to get a clearer understanding? (Ch.7)
- How does the whole investment make you feel? Do you think it is possible to keep it up? Why or why not? (Ch.1-8)
- At this moment, how much money does the lawn boy have? How does he manage to do it? (Ch.9)
- Who is Joey Pow? What does he do for the lawn business? (Ch.10)
- What brings Joey to the house? How does the lawn boy explain it to his parents? (Ch.11)
- Who is Rock? Why is he at Arnold's place now? Why didn't he call the police? (Ch.12)
- Who found Joey? How did they find him? Where are they heading now? (Ch.13)
- Did they manage to save Arnold? What happened to Rock and what did Rock promise? (Ch.14)
- How much does the lawn boy own? (Ch.15)
- Did he tell his parents what has been going on in summer? (Ch.1-15)

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After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What are the good qualities of the characters from this book? List 5 of them and explain how these influenced the plot.
- No one can be lucky all the time. In this story, what seems strange and/or potentially dangerous to you? Please list at least 3 examples.
- What advice would you give to the boy?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.