1. Why had Rachel stopped talking? How did she communicate with people?

2. What condition was Rachel diagnosed with in Ch. 1? What did it mean? What suggestion did her mom give her every morning?

3. Why did Bastian have to move again? Why would the move be hardest on his new puppy?

4. What does Jessica want to be when she grows up? Why do you think she wants this one?

5. Why was it necessary for Sean to be more self-sufficient than his peers?

6. What is wrong with Mrs. Muchmore? Why will this have an effect on Mr. Fab's students?

7. What specific complaints did Peggy Ransom have about the 6th grade teachers?

8. How did the principal respond to Mrs. Ransom's complaints? Why? Do you think this is an appropriate response? Why or why not?
1. Why did Rachel appreciate Missy as a friend, especially now? How did the other kids act around her? Why?

2. What did Rachel and the other kids think of Bastian? Why?

3. How did the students react when they realized no substitute was there? Why? What would you do? Why?

4. Why do you think Karen stepped forward as a leader in the class? Why do you think she neglected to tell the office about their missing substitute?

5. How did the kids react when Karen revealed her choice of not telling the office? Why?

6. Why do you think the kids kept to their regular routine in spite of there being no substitute there? What do you think your class would do? Why?

7. What is a “flashdraft”? Choose one student and tell what they wrote in their flashdraft.

8. Do you think Rachel’s mom should be worried about her silence? Why or why not?
1. Why did the kids decide to go to music? How did they make sure no one suspected anything?

2. What did Rachel do for Sean during snack time? Why? What does this tell you about her?

3. Why does Rachel not like the school psychologist? Does she have good reason to feel this way in your opinion? Why or why not?

4. What did Morgan do once he realized the kids were telling him the truth about their missing sub? How did they react to his actions? Why?

5. Why was Sean feeling uneasy when he went to deliver the book? How did he usually feel in the hall? Why?

6. What analogy did Jessica make to their situation on page 66? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?

7. How does Rachel feel about their situation? What does she compare it to? Why?

8. What did the kids decide to do during lunch in order to keep their little secret, a secret? Do you think it will work? Why or why not?
1. Why did Bastian leave school at lunch? Why do you think John decided to go to school after all?

2. Why did Rachel blame herself for her father leaving? Should she, in your opinion? Why or why not?

3. Why did Sky need first aid? How did they solve the problem of not being able to go to the nurse?

4. What is the class motto now? Why? Do you think it is a good one? Why or why not?

5. Why do some kids go to Enrichment while others don’t go? Why doesn’t Rachel go anymore? Is that fair? Why or why not?

6. How did the kids get out of going to Enrichment for the day? Why couldn’t Sean get out of going to the Resource Room?

7. How did the mood in the room change when John and Bastian entered? What did the girls do? What did the boys do? Why?

8. What is Exploration? Why did the class decide against the scheduled Exploration time?
“Flying Solo”, by Ralph Fletcher
Pg. 98-118

1. What is the Rock Ritual? How does it work?

2. Why did Rachel think about Tommy Feathers so much?

3. What memory did Sean share during the ritual? What decision did Bastian make after Sean had his turn? Why?

4. What memory did Rachel share? Why do you think she did this at this time? How did Bastian react? Why?

5. What topic did the kids decide to write about after Bastian left? Why?

6. What memories did the kids have of Tommy? How did they feel about him?

7. What reaction did the other 6th graders have when they saw Class 6-238 enter the auditorium for the assembly? Why?

8. Why did “all heck break loose” on page 118?
1. Why did Karen have a pretty clear conscience about their day with no substitute? Should she, in your opinion? Why or why not?

2. Why did Mr. Fabiano call Karen? What did she tell him?

3. What unusual occurrence happened when Mr. Fabiano took attendance on May 1? Why do you think she chose this time?

4. What assignment did Mr. Fabiano give the class? Why?

5. What did one of the kids write during their assignment? (choose any one)

6. Why do you think Bastian said it was okay for Rachel to read his letter?

7. Why was the day Mr. Fabiano was absent such a good day for Sean? Do you think it was a good day for everyone else? Why or why not?

8. Why was Rachel now able to speak? Do you think without the day “flying solo” she would have done it? Why or why not?