

## CRP *Hotdogs and Hamburgers* Questions for Study and Discussion

Here are some questions to consider -- or not -- as you prepare for any discussions about this book.

1. What was your first impression of each character as she/he was introduced? Feel free to talk about any of these characters, including the author himself, the author's family, the original members of the reading group, the members who joined the group later on, etc.
2. How did your first impression(s) of the characters evolve as the book progressed? What happened in the book to cause those changes? What did you learn about each character?
3. Were you surprised at how your impressions of a character(s) changed? Why or why not?
4. Did characters turn out as you expected? Why or why not?
5. Did the characters seem real to you? Why or why not?
6. Did the events in the book seem real to you? Why or why not?
7. How would you describe the author's responses to stressors related to his children?
8. How would you describe the author's responses to his parents' issues with health and aging?
9. "Creative problem solving" is considered a 21<sup>st</sup>-century skill (and looks good on your resume!) Do you think the author demonstrated this skill? Why or why not? If yes, give some examples.
10. Do you think creative problem solving is easier or more difficult in high-stakes situations (for example, if your child can't read at the same level as his/her classmates) versus lower-stakes situations (for example, your child isn't good at soccer, but soccer is not a requirement at her/his school)?
11. How would you describe your own abilities as a creative problem-solver? Do you think this is a skill that people can learn, or are we born with/without it? Explain the reasons for your answer.
12. Have you ever done any creative problem-solving before? Give examples. If not, can you describe a situation where you wish you had been able to come up with a creative solution to a problem?
13. Are you familiar with the term "resilience"? How would you define it? Do you think this is a quality that people can learn, or are we born with/without it? Explain the reasons for your answer.
14. Why do you think we are even talking about resilience in relation to this book?

Some thematic questions:

1. How important is a sense of community in a learning process? Did it help Rob's students to start to feel like others there cared about them or supported them? How so? How might we adapt this knowledge to our own daily lives?
2. How big an issue do you think adult literacy is for this country? Why do you think that? What should we do that we aren't doing now?
3. What benefits does a volunteer get in helping others, according to this book? Do you think this is generally true, or not, and why? Can you give any examples of when you volunteered to help with someone or something? What specifically did you get back for the effort?
4. What were some of Rob's strengths? Can you think of any things he did you would want to emulate? What were they?
5. Does this book suggest anything about the importance or role of family? If so, what—and do you agree or disagree, and why? Does it suggest anything about how we should respond to strangers? If so, what—and do you agree or disagree, and why?