**Guided Reading Questions**

**Directions: Choose two questions from each chapter to answer in your journal as you read.**

**Danny Lands in National City | Pages 1-5**

1. After reading the first two pages, what can you infer about Danny’s self-image—how he feels about himself? Think about how he reacts when he meets Sofia’s friends, how he describes his body, and the things he says about his skin color. (p. 1-2)
2. What gets Danny’s attention while the girls are talking about the fair? How does his body respond when he thinks about baseball? Do you have anything that matters to you as much as baseball matters to Danny? Describe it. (p. 4)
3. Why do you think Danny digs into his skin? (p. 3)
4. What is Danny’s plan for the summer? (p. 5)

**Home Run Derby: Uno’s Time Has Come | Pages 6-11**

1. What is the Home Run Derby? What are the neighborhood kids competing for? How do you win the derby? (p. 8)
2. What are the three constants of the derby? (p. 10)
3. How does Uno respond when he sees Sofia with Danny? What does this say about how Uno feels about Sofia? (p. 11)

**The Shot Heard Round the Cul-de-Sac | Pages 12-28**

1. How do the neighborhood guys respond to Danny when Sofia introduces him? (p. 14)
2. Why is Danny so quiet? What role does language have to do with his decision to talk as little as possible? (p. 16)
3. How does Uno respond to Danny’s success at the derby? Why do you think he acts this way? (p. 20-21)
4. What does Uno do in retaliation for Manuel’s injuries? Do you think Danny was at fault? Do you think Uno is in any way responsible for what happened? (p. 23-24)
5. What does Danny think about when he’s on the verge of unconsciousness? What do we learn about Danny’s father here? How does Danny interpret his father’s words? Do you think this is what his father really meant? What does this reveal about how Danny feels about his lighter skin? (p. 25-28)

**Spaghetti with Meatballs | Pages 29-39**

1. What’s happened to Uno since the last time he saw his father? What is Uno’s father trying to get Uno to realize during the conversation when he brings up prescription drugs? (p. 30-31)
2. What was Senior like when he was younger? Does it seem like he’s changed? What does Uno’s mother think? (p. 32)
3. How would you describe the relationship between Senior and Loretta (Uno’s Mom)? Do you think this effects Uno? (p. 36-38)

**Stuck in Uncle Tommy’s Apartment | Pages 40-53**

1. How has Danny’s relationship with his mom changed since his father left? (p. 41)
2. Why is Danny on the outside of Leucadia Prep’s baseball facility? (p. 41-42)
3. Who do you think is the one person that Danny wants to see him play baseball? (p. 44)
4. What seems to bother Danny the most about his mom’s new boyfriend? (p. 45)
5. What happened at Del Mar beach? What might this tell us about Danny’s father? Who does Danny seem to judge more harshly in this event? His mother or his father? (p. 45)
6. Why does Danny feel out of place with his family in National City? (p. 46)
7. Why is something as seemingly simple as eating tortillas complicated for Danny? What does this tell us about Danny’s struggles with self-identity? (p. 46-47)
8. What announcement do Randy and Wendy (Danny’s mother) make to Danny and his sister? How does Julia respond? Does it appear that Danny’s mother notices how upset Danny and Julia are? Explain. (p. 51-53)

**Uno and His Peeps Talk Summer Jobs | Pages 54-57**

1. What are Uno and the guys discussing at the beginning of the chapter? How has Danny messed up Uno’s plans? (p. 54-55)
2. What does Uno begin thinking about while talking to the guys? What does this reveal about him? (p. 56)
3. Who confronts Uno about what happened with Danny? Do you think what she says about why Uno hit Danny is true? (p. 56-57)

**Del Mar Fair | Pages 58-73**

1. Why do you think Danny digs his nails into his arm? Think about the situations he’s in when he does this. What feelings is he trying to deal with? (p. 58-59)
2. How does Uncle Ray deal with the situation between Danny and Uno? How do Uncle Ray and Danny’s father appear to be alike? How does Danny respond? Why do you think Danny lies? In this situation do you think that was the best thing to do? Why or why not? (p. 60-62)
3. Who is the girl that helped Danny at the derby? What has Flaca heard about her? Do you think it’s true? (p. 65-66)
4. In what ways are Liberty and Danny alike? (p. 68-69)
5. Danny’s letters to his father aren’t always truthful? Why do you think he says the things he does? What does this reveal about how Danny would like his life to be? (p. 70-71)
6. Make an inference: What do you think Danny’s dreams about the hawk family mean? (p. 73)

**Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is | Pages 74-82**

1. What do Uno’s thoughts about race reveal about his own issues around his identity as a Mexican-Black male in a predominantly Mexican-American community? Do you think it’s easy for Uno? (p. 77)
2. Why do you think Lolo reacts the way he does to the carney? Do you think this is an appropriate response or is he overreacting? (p. 78-79)
3. What happens when Danny throws the first ball? How does he do with the other three pitches? (p. 80-82)

**Mexican Whiteboy | Pages 83-91**

1. What does Danny think about as he pitches bucket after bucket of baseballs? (p. 84-85)
2. What does Uncle Ray tell Danny about his Dad’s feelings about being Mexican? What does this have to do with why he never taught Danny to speak Spanish? (p. 87)
3. When Uncle Ray sees what Danny is doing to his arm, how does he respond? Think about what he chooses to say to Danny. (p. 87-88)
4. Why does helping his uncle write the letter actually keep Danny from getting closer to his uncle? (p. 89-90)
5. Explain what Danny means when he says “I’m a white boy among Mexicans and a Mexican among white boys” (p. 90-91).

**Call From San Francisco | Pages 92-94**

1. Why do you think Danny’s mom is so excited about Randy? What kind of person do you think Randy is? Explain using details from the story. (p. 92-93)
2. What does Danny’s mom think about San Francisco? Does she like it? (p. 92-94)

**Senior Explains Poverty | Pages 95-106**

1. What does Senior believe everyone in National City is thinking about? Uno realizes there is a reason for this. What is it? (97)
2. When Senior talks about the messages from the media, what is he trying to get Uno to see? (p. 98-99)
3. Does Senior realize that the $500 goal he’s set for Uno is high? Why does he ask for $500? (p. 99)
4. What do Sofe and Uno see when they watch Danny practicing alone? What insights do Sofe and Uno have about Danny? (p. 104-105)

**Uno Interrupts Danny’s Workout | Pages 107-113**

1. What’s Danny’s theory about the connection between mental and physical weakness? (p. 107)
2. What story does Uno share with Danny? Why do you think Uno chooses this story to share? Think about what he’s just learned from Sofe about Danny’s father? (p. 109-110)
3. What happens when Danny pitches a hard, fast ball to Uno? (p. 112)

**The Work-outs, the Hustles, the Drive-in Theater | Pages 114-123**

1. What’s Uno’s plan for making money off of Danny’s pitching? (p. 114-116)
2. What does Danny think about as the girls watch the movie at the drive-in? (p. 118-120)
3. What happens when the girls try and set up Danny so he can talk with Liberty? (p. 122-123)

**Danny Overhears Sofia and Uncle Tommy | Pages 124-125**

1. What does Danny overhear Sofia and Uncle Tommy talking about? (p. 124-125)
2. Who do you think they are discussing? What context clues alluded to this? (p. 124-125)
3. Do you think Danny will be more like his father or his mother? (p. 124-125)

**Morse High Hustle | Pages 126-131**

1. What happens during the warm-up at the first hustle Uno sets up? (p. 126-127)
2. How does this time compare to Danny’s tryouts at Leucadia Prep? (p. 127)
3. Do Danny and Uno win the bet? How does Uno react? What does this say about Uno’s character? (p. 131-132)

**Don’t Worry, They’re Asleep | Pages 132-136**

1. Why can’t Danny sleep? (p. 132-134)
2. What does Danny tell his father in the letter? How much of it is true? (p. 135-136)

**Uno Gets Another Drunken Tongue-Lashing | Pages 137-147**

1. What is the relationship like between Ernesto and Uno? How does Ernesto use Uno’s race when he’s yelling at him? (137-38)
2. How does Uno’s mother respond to Ernesto’s verbal attack on Uno? (p. 138)
3. What does Uno think about in order to deal with what happened with Ernesto and his mother? (p. 138-139)
4. Who does Uno run into at the store? How does Uno describe Danny? Does he think Danny isn’t really Mexican? (p. 139-140)
5. How does Uno respond when he sees Danny digging into his arm? (p. 140)
6. Where is Uno’s spot? Why does he go there? What game does Uno play? (p. 142-144)
7. What does Danny wish for when he plays the karma game? Do you think Danny’s going to make it to Mexico to see his Dad? (p. 143-144)
8. What do Danny and Uno do as the train passes by? Why does Uno bring Danny to do this? (p. 146-147)

**Danny’s Return to the Mound | Pages 148-155**

1. What does Uno buy that he hopes will help Danny with his pitches? (p. 149)
2. What does Uno say that helps Danny pitch the way he’s capable of? (p. 151)
3. How does this hustle end? (p. 152)
4. What do the three girls call Danny? What do they base their judgment on? (p. 152-153)
5. Why does Marzel get upset? What does this say about how Marzel feels about Gia? Does he think she should make her own decisions about who she talks to, or is that for him to decide? (p. 153)
6. Who jumps in to defend Danny when Marzel threatens him? (p. 153)
7. What does Danny’s letter to his father reveal about how he feels about himself when you compare his reality with what he’s written? (p. 154-155)

**Senior Reads Danny’s Mind | Pages 156-163**

1. How do the next few hustles go? What is Danny’s trick to pitching well? (p. 156)
2. When Uno invites Danny to lunch with Senior, what does that say about his friendship with Danny? (p. 158)
3. What does Senior do when a young man tries to break in to his house? Do you think this was the best way to handle it? What would you have done? (p. 159-160)
4. What does Senior see in Danny’s eyes? What is Danny struggling with on the inside? (p. 162-163)

**Uno’s Own Vision of a Future | Pages 164-176**

1. Why is Uno trying to explain double or nothing to Danny? (p. 164-165)
2. How does Carmelo respond when Danny and Uno win the first round? Does he go for the double or nothing? What happens when Danny and Uno win the second round? (p. 168-170)
3. Why do you think Uno starts to feel uneasy about the way things are looking when JJ goes to the ATM? What might happen? (p. 169-170)
4. What happens when Danny wins the third round? Who jumps in to save Uno and Danny? (p. 171-173)
5. Why is Uno so mad at Danny for not running like he told him to? Why does Uno think his and Danny’s paths are so different? Where does he see Danny going? Where does he see himself going? (p. 173-174)
6. Why is this day one of the best that Uno’s ever had? What has Uno finally learned? (p. 174-176)

**The Green Lollipop | Pages 177-189**

1. How does Uno respond when Raquel asks him about Manny? (p. 179)
2. How does the game of Truth or Dare become a means for the group to share difficult things that have impacted them in a less intimidating way? (p. 179-181)
3. The group fires a lot of questions at Danny, but they end up answering most of them before Danny can. Except for one, what one question do they wait for Danny to answer? Who saves Danny from having to answer? (p. 183)
4. What does Raquel dare Liberty and Danny to do? (p. 185)
5. What does Danny find ironic about the situation with Liberty? (p. 187)

**A Final Phone Call from San Francisco | Pages 190-195**

1. What is Danny’s mom struggling with in San Francisco? Why isn’t she happy there?
2. What does Danny’s mom share about struggling with one’s identity? Is it something that goes away once you’re an adult? (p. 194)
3. What does Danny’s mom realize through her move to San Francisco? (p. 194)
4. What does Danny learn about his Dad from Sofia? (p. 195)

**Uno’s Big Talk with His Mom | Pages 196-198**

1. What does Uno want to tell his mom? (p. 196-197)
2. What does Uno’s mom tell him before he can talk to her about his move to Oxnard? (p. 198)
3. Does Uno actually end up talking to his mom about the move? (p. 198)

**Along for the Ride | Pages 199-207**

1. What happens as Uncle Ray is leaving the grocery store parking lot with Danny, Tim and Rico? (p. 202-203, 205-207)
2. Is Danny’s father the only person who struggles with a violent temper in the family? (p. 207)
3. Why is Uncle Danny so upset with Uncle Ray? What has Uncle Danny promised Danny’s father, Javier? (p. 203-204)
4. Why do you think Uncle Danny means by “went in there” when he says “What he [Javier] tell us ‘fore he went in there?” Does went in there sound like Danny’s father is in Ensenada? (p. 203)

**A Last Las Palmas Practice Session | Pages 208-209**

1. What do you think is bothering Danny? (p. 208-209)
2. Where have Uno’s favorite summer memories been? Why do you think this is? (p. 208-209)

**Here I Come | Pages 210-213**

1. What do Sofia and Uno talk about? (p. 210-211)
2. What does Sofia think she’s lost that the little girl on the slide has? Do you think she’s right? Do you think that once we grow up we lose the belief in our ability to succeed? (p. 212)

**Danny and Uno at Petco Park | Pages 214-224**

1. What’s it like for Danny and Uno at the Padres game? Has either of them ever been to a game before? (p. 214-216)
2. Who does Danny recognize at the game selling hot dogs? (p. 217)
3. Why has the scout been watching Danny? What did he promise Danny’s father? (p. 218-219)
4. How did Danny’s dad save the scout? (p. 220)
5. What does Danny learn about where his father is? Why do you think everyone hid this from Danny? (p. 220)
6. Uno treats Danny lightly through the whole game even though he knows something is wrong. Why do you think this is? What does this say about the kind of friend that Uno is? (p. 214-221)
7. When Danny gets home, how does he cope with what he’s learned about his Dad? (p. 222-223)
8. Who finds Danny in the bathroom? (p. 223)
9. What does Sofia keep repeating to Danny? Do you think he believes it? (p. 224)

**The Last Hustle of the Summer | Pages 225-239**

1. Where does Uno take Danny for their last hustle? (p. 226)
2. Who does Uno want to challenge? Do you think this is about the money or something else? (p. 228-229)
3. What does Barker call Danny? What does he mean by the insult? (p. 230)
4. Re-read the interactions between the Leucadia Prep boys and Uno and Danny. How do the private school boys treat Uno? What does this say about them? (p. 229-239)
5. How does Danny feel as he pitches to Kyle? How has Danny changed over the summer? (p. 231-234)
6. As Danny struggles to get a 3rd out against Kyle, Uno points something out to Danny. What is it? If Kyle’s the best, what does it say about Danny’s pitching? (p. 235)
7. Does Danny beat Kyle? (p. 237)
8. What happens during the double or nothing round? (p. 238)
9. Why do you think Danny fights Barker? Is it about the loss or something else? (p. 238-239)
10. Who shoves the Leucadia guys off of Danny and gets him out of the fight? (p. 239)
11. Danny and Uno lost the hustle, but Danny found something else. What is it? (p. 239)

**Stripping Tile and Slinging Tar | Pages 240-243**

1. As Danny, Uno, Sofia and Liberty eat dinner they talk about their plans for the upcoming year. What are the four going to be doing? (p. 241-243)

**A New Light on the Recycling Plant | Pages 244-245**

1. What’s the last trip that Uno has planned for him and Danny? (p. 245)
2. At the beginning of the summer, Danny’s plan is to see his father. How do Danny’s plans change? Do you think he gets to see his father? (p. 245)