

Chapter Fourteen - “Thanksgiving”

At Thanksgiving, Arnold seems somewhat abandoned by his community: his sister has moved to Montana, and his friendship with Rowdy is reduced to exchanges of drawings and hand gestures. Why do you think Arnold continues to reach out to Rowdy? Do you think Rowdy will ever change his mind about Arnold? Why or Why not?

Chapter Fifteen - “Hunger Pains”

At school, Arnold overhears someone throwing up in the girls’ bathroom, and he discovers that Penelope is bulimic. “There are all kinds of addicts I guess. We all have pain. And we all look for ways to make the pain go away” (107). What kinds of pain does Penelope experience? In what ways does bulimia allow her to make her pains go away? What kinds of pain do people you are close to--family members, friends, classmates, teammates--experience? What do those people do to make pain go away? Are their strategies for making the pain go away effective? Why or why not?

Chapter Sixteen - “Rowdy Gives Me Advice About Love”

When Arnold seeks advice from Rowdy and Gordy about Penelope, they both give him similar responses: white girls are privileged. “I think it means you’re just a racist...like everybody else,” Gordy concludes (116). To what extent do you agree or disagree with Rowdy and Gordy’s assessments? Why or why not?