



Red Maple Activity: Discussion Answers

The Fort by Gordon Korman

Name: _____

1. Why does Ricky end up staying at Evan's house?

A storm caused damage to Ricky's bedroom window, and his mother works with Evan's grandmother so she offered him a place to stay while they fix the window.

2. What kind of fort do the boys find in the woods? What was it made for?

They find an old bunker buried in the ground from the Cold War.

3. What are some of the Fort Rules the boys make for their fort? What rules would you make if you had your own fort?

They decide to keep it a secret and not to allow new members (or girls) into the fort.

4. What are some of the things the boys do to keep their fort a secret?

They hide the trapdoor with branches, often walk in circles around it if they think they are being followed, they climb a tree before going into it to see if anybody is watching, they give it a code name, "Peru," when they talk about it, and even build a decoy fort further away.

5. What do they find in the fort that they can pawn for money?

The drawers are full of vintage silverware.

6. What are C. J.'s "death-defiers" and why does he do them so often?

C. J. often does dangerous stunts with his bike or his hoverboard. His stepdad has problems with anger and often physically abuses him, so C. J. does the death-defiers.

7. What does Mitchell mean by "watering" Dr. Breckinridge's plants? Why does he do it, and what does Dr. Breckinridge make Mitchell do when he finds out what Mitchell has been doing?

Mitchell has been peeing on Dr. Breckinridge's vegetable garden at night. He thinks the doctor dropped him when his mother could no longer afford to pay for his therapy sessions. But the doctor didn't drop him and offers the sessions in return for help around the house—including taking care of the garden.

8. What does Luke see in Jaeger? What are some examples of when Luke is uncomfortable with Jaeger's behaviour, and what does he do later to take a stand against him?

Luke wants to feel cool and independent like Jaeger, but he often feels uncomfortable about it like when he picks on Evan or breaks his grandparents' property. Near the end of the story, Luke knocks Jaeger down when he is about to stab Evan.

9. Why do you think the author wrote the story from different points of view?

Answers will vary. Different points of view allowed for different storylines to develop and work together. It also allowed the reader to know things that, at times, only one or a few characters knew, adding tension to the story.

10. What do the boys do at the end of the story? What are they surprised to find?

They go to the dump to say goodbye to the stuff thrown out of the fort. They are surprised to find the cactus blooming in the middle of the night.