1) On the first page of the novel, why does his mother ask him several times if he looked everywhere? What does this tell the reader about Paul?

2) Describe the scene in which Paul envisions.

3) On page 4 Paul says, “But I can see. I can see everything. I can see things that Mom and Dad can’t. Or won’t,” what do you think this is foreshadowing?

4) When Paul’s mother accuses him of smoking a cigarette, what can that hint about his family life?

5) On page 10, why does Erik’s dad include Paul in setting up the living room?

6) What is the Erik Fisher football dream?
1) On page 17, Paul states, “The same white-sugar sand that whipped through our development in Houston and the one before that in Huntsville,” what does this say about their lifestyle?

2) Why do you think they move around a lot?

3) When Mr. and Mrs. Fisher meet Mr. Costello, they begin to tell them about Erik. How would it make you feel if your parents ignored things you’ve done and accomplishments that you’ve made?

4) What are the town’s feelings towards Tangerine High School? (Pg 19).

5) What type of character do you think Mr. Fisher is?

6) Why does Paul say that Mike Costello is a “pretty decent guy, for a football player”?

7) On page 22, what do we learn about Paul as an athlete?

8) On pages 22-23, Paul thinks, “Fired for what, Dad? For telling us the truth? For telling us something that you didn’t know? That you should have known?” It seems as though this line extends past the muck fires, what could he be referring to?
9) Why does Paul say that his mom “…would never waste her time complaining. Just like she would never waste her time worrying about the past,”?

10) What do black storm clouds represent? (literally and symbolically)

11) How can the small wooden shacks be symbolic of the relationship between Paul and Erik?

12) On page 27, Paul thinks, “What else has Dad ‘overlooked’ about Tangerine,” why do you think the word “overlooked” is in quotes?
1)  On Page 27, Paul says, “I was watching a huge bird of prey circling overhead, like a hawk. I knew that. It was an osprey. (I know the difference because of a science project I did last year. Could a vision impaired person tell the difference?)”

a.  What are the symbolic implications of Paul stating that the bird was a hawk (What does a kind of bird is hawk?)

b.  If he could tell it was an osprey, why are people saying his vision is impaired? Could this be an unreliable narrator? If possible, how?

2)  Why is it ironic that Mr. Fisher was not into sports before Erik became good? Does it explain anything about his nature?

3)  What kind of athlete is Paul?

4)  In the last paragraph before “Monday, August 28,” who does Paul sound like?

5)  On page 32, Paul says, “It occurred to me that I’ve never lived in a development that was finished. I have always lived with overflowing construction Dumpsters and portable toilets sitting on boards,” what could this be symbolic of in Paul’s life?
6) On page 38, Paul thinks, “Why didn’t I answer that question? I used to have an answer ready to that question. I used to tell people that I once stared too long at a solar eclipse. But if that’s the truth, if that really happened, why can’t I remember it?” what do you think happened to Paul?

7) Why do you think Erik would choose Arthur as his holder, how could this benefit him?
1) On page 45, Paul claims that they are “sweating buckets,” what is this an example of?

2) For the first time, we really see Paul in action as a soccer player, how does he fair? How do you know this?

3) On page 49, Erik describes the accident with Mike Costello, in what tone of voice does Erik tell the story? What does this tell you about Erik and his value of life?

4) When Erik and Arthur tell the story of Joey Costello trying to take Mike’s shoes, they start laughing. What does this tell the reader about the two of them?

5) Arthur seems to repeat everything that Erik says, what does this tell the reader about him as a character (Arthur)?

6) Mr. Fisher is now referred to as one of Mr. Warner’s “football fathers”, why doesn’t Mr. Fisher want to do anything to lose that title? What does that tell the reader about Mr. Fisher as a character?

7) Paul thinks if he was in the same situation as Joey Costello and how he would feel; “I would feel relived. I would feel safer. But I would feel sorry, too. Erik is part of that eclipse story. I know he is. Erik is a part of whatever it is that I need to remember. I don’t want Erik to die and take his part of the story with him.” What is the importance of this passage?
1) Because of Paul’s mother, what happens to him with the Lake Windsor Soccer team?

2) What is the irony of Paul seeing the Osprey carrying the Koi fish at the same time that his father went to talk to Coach Walski?

3) How does his mother attempt to make Paul feel better about his situation on the soccer team?

   a. What do you think this could mean for his mother’s actions towards him?

   b. What do you think it could mean about controlling his life?

4) Mrs. Fisher states on page 68, “Life goes on,” if she has this attitude towards the death of Mike Costello and Paul’s situation, what else do you think she could have had this attitude towards? (Think of Paul’s past)

5) What was symbolic of Paul’s trip to the freak show, “Wonders of the world”?

6) How was Paul a hero? How is he different than Erik?

7) Why do you think he is still afraid of Arthur and Erik?
8) On page 87, Paul says, “You’re either at the center of his world, or you’re nowhere. There is no in-between. It’s the Dad era now.” What is this telling you that Paul wants from his father?

9) At the end of Part I, where does Paul want to be transferred to?

   a. When have we met characters from Tangerine Middle School before?

   b. How do you think Paul will fair there?
1) How does Paul know the star players on Tangerine Middle School soccer team?

2) What are the major differences in Tangerine Middle School?

3) What happened when Paul spoke to the Tangerine Middle School soccer coach?

4) On page 102, Paul states, “Things actually seem to be going my way. Finally. It’s the Paul Fisher Soccer Dream. I wonder if Erik feels that way about his life here. But I wonder, too, if Mike Costello felt that way about his when he was leaning against the goalpost.” What literary element might this be an example of?

5) Did Paul get away with “ratting out these guys”?

6) How was Paul’s second day of soccer practice at Tangerine Middle different from his practice at Lake Windsor?

7) On page 109, Paul thinks to himself, “It’s not my team, Mom. Not yet anyway. Not by a long shot. And it’s definitely not nice. But it’s where I want to be.” Why do you think he wants to be there?
1) In the beginning of Wednesday, September 20, Paul says, “The muck fire was particularly strong. I could actually see it, and feel it, and smell it swirling over and into our yard.” If the muck fire is a metaphor for his life, then what could it foreshadow if the muck fires were particularly bad that day?

2) Why would Arthur Bauer’s Land Cruiser be called the predator?

3) Erik says, “Hey, check it out. It’s Mohawk Man’s brother.” What does this say about Arthur?

4) When Erik goes inside how does his conversation with Arthur change around Mrs. Fisher?

5) According to Paul, how is Arthur a coward?

6) Why did Joey try to take of Mike’s shoes?

7) How did the players and fans of Palmetto Middle School act?
8) How did Coach Bright tell her team to act?

9) Paul states that they played like a team, what does he mean by that?

10) What does the thunderstorm during the game symbolize?

11) How does Paul get into the game?

12) What happens to the Paul when the ball is kicked towards him in the game?

13) Why does Victor say, “Nobody’s gonna mess with , not anyplace, not anytime. Do you know what I’m sayin’”? 

14) Where is Joey Costello going?

15) Why do you think Paul says it’s important to have connections in Tangerine Middle School?
1) How does Lake Windsor win its first football game?

2) How does Mr. Fisher look at the situation on how they won their first football game?

3) On page 129, Paul thinks, “Forget it, Dad. Forget it, Mom. Erik can’t laugh this off. Erik can’t leave this humiliation behind him. Someone has to pay for this. I’m not sure why I’m sure. But I am. Someone has to pay for this.” Erik’s action hasn’t really warranted this type of reaction. He hasn’t done anything that bad. Why do you think he feels someone “has to pay for this”?

4) What does it show you about Paul’s parents when they weren’t at his game on pg 130?

5) Does Paul respect Shandra in goal? How do you know this?

6) Victor calls Paul “Fisher man,” How is this different from his name at Lake Windsor? What does this demonstrate about the kids at Tangerine Middle School?

7) How does Paul win respect from Victor on page 133-4?
8) On page 141 Paul says, “For Joey, our house may as well be covered with canvas and bound by ropes, because it’s filled with poison.” What is the metaphor? Who is the metaphor referring to?

9) Why do you think Shandra doesn’t want any part of newspapers or publicity? (Think of her last name, who else has this last name?)

10) What type of person does Joey turn out to be?

11) On page 160, Luis says, “The rough lemon is totally worthless in the supermarket, and yet there is no more valuable tree out here in the nursery.” How could this be a metaphor for Paul and his “new” friends?

12) On page 162, Paul states, “I saw a billowing white cloud enter the backyard, like an angel of death. It came from the right to the left, in white waves, and quickly filled up the whole yard. But as I watched the scene, it happened again. Just like in Houston. Just like at the gray wall. A feeling came over me, overpowering me. Like I had to remember something, whether I wanted to or not.” What do you think happened to Paul?

13) On page 164-5, Paul states the change in the town’s attitude toward Erik; what does Paul think about their change of attitude?

14) On page 171, Paul tells Tino that he ratted him out; why did he tell him?

15) On page 176, what were Erik and Arthur doing?
1) Why didn’t Tangerine play the second to last game?

2) According to the book why can the Tangerine War Eagles control their own destiny?

3) What article was in the newspaper?

4) Why does Paul say that Lake Windsor is like a movie set?

5) How does Paul get into goal against Lake Windsor?

6) Why does Coach Walski want to declare Paul as ineligible?

7) How does Coach Bright retaliate?

8) Who is Antoine Thomas?
9) How does Tangerine score their second goal against Lake Windsor?

10) How does the game end?

11) Why was Paul crying?

12) At the end of Part 2, Paul says to his mom, “it sure was, Mom. It was quite a ride.” He was referring to more than just the bus ride, what was he referring to?
Tangerine: 197-206 (203-212)

1) How does Tino stand up to Erik?

2) What does Erik do to retaliate?

   a. What does this show about Erik’s personality?

3) On page 199 (205-06), Paul states, “…When I finally did, when I finally looked right into his eyes, I was surprised by what I saw. It was not hatred, or even anger. It was more like sorrow. Or fear. He gave me that look, then he sun around and left.” What could this imply about Paul station in life as compared to his brothers?

4) On page 201(207) Paul states, “… I thought briefly about asking her to help me. But try as I might, I couldn’t think of any good that could come from it.” Why wouldn’t any good come from it?

5) What do you think Erik is keeping in their storage?

6) What happens between Erik and Luis?
1) How do grandmom and grandpop feel about the Erik Fisher football dream?

2) Why does Mr. Fisher seem mad at Paul’s grand parents?

3) What does it mean for the kids to fight the freeze?

4) What does it mean to “ice down their new grove)?

5) Why does Paul tell Tino “We are all war eagles”?

6) Mrs. Fisher says “Paul, I trust people. I trust them until I have a reason not to.” Who does she trust too much?

7) What’s the plan to stop the freeze?

8) What is an example of a crisis when trying to save the groves?
9) Why is Paul and his crew sent into the hut to wait?

10) Did the Golden Dawns survive?

11) Why does Luis tell Paul not to be scared of Erik and Arthur?
Tangerine: 206-223 (212-230)

1) How do grandmom and grandpop feel about the Erik Fisher football dream?

2) Why does Mr. Fisher seem mad at Paul’s grand parents?

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8) What is an example of a crisis when trying to save the groves?
9) Why is Paul and his crew sent into the hut to wait?

10) Did the Golden Dawns survive?

11) Why does Luis tell Paul not to be scared of Erik and Arthur?
1) If Antoine played a part in all 5 TD’s, would they talk about Erik?

2) If Antoine is friends with Luis, Do you think there is a reason why they missed all 5 snaps?

3) Paul asks his father if he knew what position he played, why does he ask this?

4) What is his mom thinking when Mr. Fisher mentions that Erik has to have good character?

5) There was an act of vandalism in Lake Windsor Downs, what is it?

6) What vision does the vandalism look like?

7) What was spray painted on the wall?

8) Paul states, “… I feel very weird. But I can’t say why. I can’t remember why. Not yet.” What do you think that is referring to?
9) In the beginning of Monday, November 23, why is Paul disappointed?

10) What does Kerri ask Paul?

11) Everyone at Lake Windsor is happy about the freeze, how is this different than in Tangerine?

12) What are the robberies about in Lake Windsor?

13) How does Paul seem to get recognition from his mom?

14) The last sentence of the reading says that Mr. Fisher is coming unglued, why would this be happening to him?
Tangerine: 268-280 (277-289)

1) What were Eric and Arthur doing to the tented houses?

2) What is Mr. Fisher’s plan to keep Erik out of jail?

3) Why does Arthur get arrested?

4) How does Paul finally stand up to Erik? (This could possibly resolve his conflict)

5) Why are the grandparents saying “I told you so” to Mr. and Mrs. Fisher?
1) Why was Paul called in early to school by Dr. Johnson?

2) Why does Theresa cry?

3) What is Tino’s advice to Paul while they are waiting outside the Principal’s office?

4) What penalty does Dr. Johnson give to Paul?

5) How does the crowd outside the school react to Paul?

6) What school is Paul attending next year?

7) What school is Paul attending for the remainder of this school year?

8) Why does Tino invite Paul to the Groves with it is cold?
9) When Paul is talking to Tino on the phone, why does Paul hear “the word ‘brother’ echoing long afterword”?

10) Why does his father drive him to school, how could this resolve their conflict?