

On the Bridge Seminar

I. Writing Question

Write about a time when you tried to fit in with a new friend. Did you wear something specific? Did you listen to a new song or type of music? What advice would you give to someone who is trying to fit in with a new friend.

OR

Write about a time when you felt misunderstood by someone because of a choice you made with your friends.

II. Opening Question

According to the story, what makes a good or bad friend?

III. Theme #1 (Masculinity)

- How does Todd Strasser define masculinity through his storytelling in “On the Bridge?”
- Was Adam or Seth more masculine?
- There is a lot of bragging in the story. What’s the point of bragging and why do the characters do it?

IV. Theme #2 (Friendship)

- Are Seth and Adam friends?
- On page 3, the author writes, “suddenly [Seth] noticed that all three guys were staring at him. He quickly look at Adam and saw why. Adam was point at him.” If you were in this situation what would you do? What would you expect your friend to do?

V. Theme #3 (Search for Identity)

- Based on the text, how do you think Adam would describe himself? How would you describe Adam? What are the similarities and differences between these two descriptions.
- In your mind how do you picture the characters? What do they look like? How do they act? How would you act if you met them?

VI.Closing/ Wrap Around

- This story is an allegory for adolescent development. Do you agree with the stereotype of adolescent behavior that is depicted by the author? If so, what aspects of Seth and Adam do you think are faithful depictions of "the teenager"? If not, what aspects of the story would you rewrite to make the depiction more accurate, in your eyes?

OR

- Whose identity was most impacted through the course of the story? Why?