St. Joseph’s Preparatory School

Freshman Summer Reading Assignment for Religious Studies

Welcome to the Prep! We hope your experience at the Prep will be the best ever from the very start! Here’s information about the book *Iqbal* which all freshmen will be reading over the summer and discussing in class during the first week of school. Your teacher will inform you of additional work related to the book, like quizzes or essays, in class.

*While reading the book, you are strongly encouraged to underline passages you consider important and take notes in response to the guide questions below.*

Guide Questions for *Iqbal*, a novel by Francesco D’Adamo

1. Can you identify with Iqbal and his situation easily or not? Explain.
2. Are children entitled to certain rights simply because of their youth? Why/not?
3. What do you think of Iqbal’s parents’ decision to “sell” their son into a type of slavery?
4. What information did you learn about “sweatshop” labor from Iqbal’s story?
5. Was this introduction more effective than a journalistic report might be? Explain.
6. Do you think a nation can aggressively oppose child sweatshops in other nations? Why/not?
7. What attitudes prompt businessmen to force children to work in sweatshop conditions?
8. Were you surprised by the corruption shown by the police after Iqbal’s first escape? Explain.
9. Do you admire Iqbal’s rebellious action in spite of the price he paid? Explain.
10. Is Iqbal’s rebellion part of adolescence, or is it something more? Explain.
11. Did the narration of this story by a young girl weaken or strengthen its impact on you?
12. Identify a specific event in the story that you consider most disturbing? Why?
13. If you discovered a sweatshop in the Philadelphia area, what specific action would you take?
14. If you were a member of Congress, what action would you take locally or internationally?