Soar by Joan Bauer

Discussion Questions/Project Ideas

1. What is unique about what brought Walt and Jeremiah together? What “process” did he have to go through to become his father?
2. Walt is not your “typical” father. However, he does well by Jeremiah and the two have a good relationship together. Describe their relationship and highlight some of the amazing things Walt does to help Jeremiah. What does Jeremiah do to help Walt?
3. What brings Jeremiah to Hillcrest, Ohio? Knowing that he’s got a temporary move, what makes him invest so much of his time and energy into this town?
4. Discuss some ways that Jeremiah acts like an adult coach you’ve had (or imagine to have) and some ways he’s limited by being a kid.
5. What did Jeremiah’s team decide to call themselves? Why was this a fitting name? Which member/player “needed” this team the most? Explain why you think so.
6. How would you feel if you were unable to play the sport you love? Have you ever had to give anything up that you didn’t want to? What was the reason?
7. What are steroids/performance-enhancing drugs? Why is this cheating? What is the danger in using these drugs? Even professional athletes are busted for this. Knowing the risks, then, why would someone take them?
8. Winning is important but everyone always tells you that “Winning isn’t everything.” What *is* more important than winning? Even though Jeremiah’s team had a hard time winning games, what were they able to get out playing together?
9. List all of the characters that are impacted by Jeremiah in some way. Who do you think he MOST influences? Explain why you think so.
10. There are a few different coaches in the book…some good and some not so good. Pick someone who was a good coach and share the qualities that made that character do so well at the job. Then pick someone who didn’t necessarily do the best job at being coach and explain that character’s negative qualities. What coaches have you experienced in your own lives and what made them so good?
11. This story is a lot about “heart.” Explain the literal and figurative ways the story touches on this theme.

Project Ideas

1. Create a letter exchange between Jeremiah and his friend, Yaff , from back home. You can write from a period of time during the story or start off where the story ends.
2. Create a scrapbook or memory box for Jeremiah by gathering physical objects that represent his life (or what we know of it). Be creative with what you gather and be ready to share out on why each item/scrapbook page was included.
3. Write 3 poems in response to the book or characters.