



Activity One

Competitive Nature

Jordan and his family read about the different activities being provided at his new school. One such activity is "competitive yoga". Naturally, Jordan and his family have never heard of this. Based on what you already know about yoga, imagine what competitive yoga would be. Make up a set of rules, how it's "played", and how someone would "win".

Did you know that competitive yoga is a real thing? Do some research. How do the rules compare to the ones you designed? When was competitive yoga established? How did it start? Is it a controversial sport? If so, why? Create a short presentation of it. At the end, explore your own thoughts and feelings on the sport, and whether it would be something you'd want to try.

Finally, design your own competitive form of something you like to do. It must be something that doesn't already exist. Design the rules around this new sport. Imagine how competitions will be held. Can you foresee any controversy surrounding it? What parameters can be put in place in order to curb this controversy? Design a brochure highlighting your new sport and how to play.



Activity Two

Cherub Counterparts

Throughout the book, Jordan is depicted with little cherub versions of himself. These creatures are used to portray Jordan's inner thoughts and feelings to things that happen in the story. For example, when Jordan sees a boy who looks like him on his first day of school, the cherub figures are holding up a sign that reads "Hallelujah". Later on, when Jordan meets this person and gets to know him a little bit, the cherub figures drop the sign saying "Hallelujah".

These two scenes signify Jordan's first impressions of Maury and how he feels about him once they meet. At first, Jordan is excited to see someone who looks like him. There aren't many African American kids at the school, so Jordan is happy to see someone like him. His cherub figures display this excitement. Later on, Jordan and Maury meet and have a short conversation. Jordan realizes that even though they look alike, the two have very little in common. His excitement disappears, shown in the representation of his cherub counterparts.

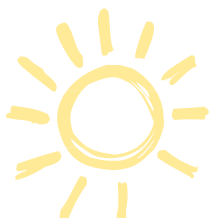
Choose one of two tasks:

Task 1

Choose another instance from the story where cherubs are used to portray Jordan's inner thoughts and feelings. Explain their significance in the scene.

Task 2

Choose a scenario in your own life. Recreate this in a scene where your thoughts and feelings are portrayed with cherub versions of yourself.



Activity Three

Tolerant Recreation

The characters in this graphic novel experience a variety of racist remarks. Whether it's Andy making fun of Ramon's heritage, or Mr. Roche asking if what he said was racist, or Mr. Garner being mistaken for Coach Rick by a colleague of fourteen years. Choose a scene from the book with racist undertones. Re-create this scene to be more acceptable.

Graphic novel panel layout with four empty panels for drawing and writing.



Activity Four

Sketching Your Feelings

Jordan uses his sketchbook as a diary or journal. In it, he shares his personal feelings to things that happen around him. Although he portrays these events in a comedic manner, they cover some very real issues. Being able to sketch things out serves as an outlet for his inner thoughts. When Ms. Rawle invades Jordan's privacy by reading through his sketchbook, Jordan is understandably upset.

Most people at one point or another have kept a diary or journal. In it, you would have written down your personal feelings and inner thoughts. It would have been something you kept to yourself and didn't share with others. In Jordan's unique way, he portrayed his inner thoughts in the form of guides and tips. For example, he shares his Dad's tips for being a man, and how to shake hands. He also outlines his experience playing soccer with his guide to fall sports.

Now it's your turn to sketch a personal thought. Following Jordan's example, create a guide or tip that highlights something you've experienced. It must portray your inner thoughts and feelings. Follow the graphic novel format that Jordan uses. You can choose to use a situation that you may have once written about in a journal, or you can make something up entirely. Whatever you decide, you must subtly make a point through humor. It's up to you whether you want to share this cartoon with others.





Activity Five

Holiday Comparison



In this graphic novel, we see how Jordan celebrates two major holidays with his family. First there's Thanksgiving. We see Jordan's celebrations depicted in Chapter 7. In it, Thanksgiving dinner is celebrated around a big table with Jordan, his mom, his dad, his grandfather, Miss Neal, his Aunt Margo, and his cousin Bobby. The family eat turkey, string beans, candied yams and marshmallows, corn bread, collard greens, and mac and cheese.

Your task will be to display how your own family celebrates Thanksgiving. Draw a scene similar to Jordan's. Show what you typically eat, who's usually invited, and what other customs and traditions you celebrate. Do you go around the table and say what you're thankful for? Do you eat family style or buffet style? Do you eat around a big table at all? Maybe you celebrate with just your household. Maybe you celebrate at a pot luck with the neighborhood. However you celebrate Thanksgiving, display it as a single-panel scene on a large piece of paper.

The second holiday Jordan celebrates is Kwanzaa. Do a deep dive into the celebrations of Kwanzaa. What is this holiday all about? What days does it fall on? How is it celebrated? Roughly how many people in America celebrate Kwanzaa?

Compare this holiday with your own traditions. Do you celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah (Chanukah)? Is there another holiday you celebrate instead during this time? Or do you celebrate anything at all? Provide 2 similarities and 2 differences between Kwanzaa and your own holiday.



A typical Kwanzaa display.

NAME: _____



Activity Six

Secret Santa Rules



After the Thanksgiving break, Jordan's homeroom picks people for Secret Santa. Each person picks another person at random who they have to give a present to. The rules for Jordan's homeroom are:

1. Each person will receive 3 gifts.
2. The first 2 gifts can be anything.
3. The 3rd gift should be a purchase.
4. The purchased gift must be less than \$10.

Have you ever played Secret Santa before? Did you have different rules? Your task will be to create your own Secret Santa rules. You can start by deciding whether each person will have a specific person to buy for, or whether it will be a general gift whose recipient will be chosen at random on the day that it is given. For the latter, you can create a game to determine who receives what gift. For instance, maybe each person will randomly choose a gift, open it, then can decide whether they keep the gift, or trade it for another opened gift. Write down your Secret Santa rules and share them with the class.

For Jordan's Secret Santa, he had Ashley. He decided to gift her a Sweet Potato Pie that he helped his Dad make. At the end of the school year, Ashley gives a slice of Sweet Potato Pie that her mother made. She found the recipe online and tried it out. Your task will be to find a Sweet Potato Pie recipe online. Look at a couple and see if there are any differences between them. Choose one. Have a parent help you make this dish. Try it out, what do you think?!

