

Romiette and Julio

Study Guide

The following questions could be used for small group discussions, whole class discussions, or short answer written questions.	Common Core Standard(s)
1. <i>Romiette and Julio</i> begins with a dream sequence. How is this technique employed by the author effective in building suspense and introducing the main character?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.5
2. How does this method affect the reader's response? What predictions can the reader make about Romiette? Support your answer with specific details from the text.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.5
3. Chapter two is written as a diary. As you first meet Julio, how is he like many young people today? How is he different? What seem to be his biggest insecurities? His greatest strengths? Use specific details from the text to support your comparison.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
4. Describe the relationship between the Romiette and Destiny. Why are they so close? How are they alike and how are they different? Use specific details from the text to support your answer.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
5. Why do you think the character of Destiny was given that name? Based on specific details in the text, what aspects of her personality and her actions make that name appropriate?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.3
6. Use textual evidence to determine what Thomas Jefferson High School is like. Look for explicit and implicit details that describe the building, the teachers, the students, the administration, and the feel of the school. What specific language does Draper use to convey the feel of the school? How does it compare to your school and/or other schools in your community?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.4
7. What does Julio think of his new school and why? How does it compare to his old school? What are the positives and negatives of each school?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
8. How do you feel about Ben? What specific details in the text led you to your opinion? Would he be a good friend to have? Does his physical appearance influence your viewpoint? Why or why not?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.4
9. Julio meets Romiette on the Internet. Trace the development of their online relationship. What is dangerous about such a relationship? How can websites such as social networks cause a danger to teenagers? How can a teen be safe and smart about social networks and the Internet?	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1
10. Julio had no say in the decision to move from Texas to Ohio. How can a move like that affect the life of a teenager? How do you think the move affected some of the decisions Julio made in the story? Support your answer with specific details from the text.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
11. Describe the relationship between Julio and his parents. Use explicit and implicit details to explain what happened in his parents' lives to affect their attitudes today.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
12. Describe the instances of prejudice and unfairness that Julio faces at his new school. Why do you think people treat each other this way?	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1

13. Describe the relationship between the friends in the book, backing up your answer with specific details from the text. Is friendship enough when situations become monumental and overwhelming to young people? Explain.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
14. Describe the escalating confrontations between Julio the Devildogs using specific details from the text. How could events have turned out differently? What would you have done in the same situation?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
15. What were your predictions about Destiny and the Secret Soulmate package? What about Romiette and her efforts to find her true love? What specific details in the text led you to your predictions? Do you believe there is a way to predict the future or affect one's destiny? Explain. Back up your answer with support from the text.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.4 W.6-12.1
16. Discuss the character of Malaka and her relationship with Romiette and the gang. Does she have any redeeming qualities or is she purely a negative character? What might have made Malaka the person she is? Why do you think people become aligned with gangs? Support your answer with specific details from the text.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
17. Discuss the role of Nannette in the story. What is her purpose?	RL.6-12.3
18. Compare and contrast the parents as the search is conducted for their children. How are the two mothers similar or different? How are the two fathers similar or different?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
19. What do you think about the end of the story? What would have been the effect on the novel if Romiette and Julio had died like their counterparts in the Shakespeare story? Which is more memorable and more powerful in a novel--tragedy or happiness? Explain.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
20. What might both adults and teens have accomplished if they had worked together and believed each other? What lessons might have been learned from the gang?	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1
The following questions are designed to be individual writing projects or small group writing projects depending upon the needs of your classroom.	Common Core Standard(s)
<p>Narrative</p> <p>A. Visualize the next ten years for Romiette, Julio, Ben, and Destiny. Create a scene in which they meet at a ten-year reunion. Write it in a style that mimics Draper's tone and text structure. What will have happened to them and why?</p> <p>B. "Destiny, did you ever catch the Fantastic Five?" "Once I got close. I wished on 1:11, then I caught 2:22. At 3:33, I was in the bathroom, but I remembered just in time and caught it and wished before it clicked over to 3:34. Then I just sat by the clock until 4:44. I knew I had it. I wished the same wish every time." Write a narrative paper that talks about what you would wish for if you caught the "Fantastic Five" or what might happen if an imaginary character was able to do so.</p>	RL.6-12.5 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4
<p>Newspaper Article</p> <p>You are a reporter at one of the following scenes. Write the story for your newspaper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The search for Romiette and Julio 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The trial of the Devildogs and Malaka ○ The school board meeting as they discuss gangs in the school 	
<p>Letters</p> <p>Write a letter to one of the characters in the book explaining your feelings about the events in the story. What advice would you give Destiny, or Ben, or Julio's parents? What would you say to Romiette?</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Point of View Paper</p> <p>From his point of view, in diary form, write about the life of Ben Olsen for several months. Include details about how he views life.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.6 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.9</p>
<p>Descriptive Paper</p> <p>A. "She struggled, searching for air, for land, for something to hold onto. But there was only the water, pulling her into its depths. She couldn't breathe. She couldn't swim. She couldn't even scream. The water filled her, seared her thoughts, and she drifted slowly into unconsciousness. The fire cooled, the terror ebbed, and the dark shadow of death embraced her." Write a descriptive paper that uses sensory imagery similarly to how Draper uses sensory imagery in this paragraph. Use vivid verbs and powerful adjectives and adverbs as you write. Use as many of the senses as you can (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste).</p> <p>B. "She's a jewel in a pile of rocks. She's like chocolate cake for dinner--and I love chocolate!" "My goodness. She's got you talking poetry!" "Oh yes, Mama. The shape of her fingers, the curve of her back, the tilt of her head--all make me dizzy. I even like the sound of her voice--a little low and full of secrets. If she could put that voice of hers in a bottle and sell it, she'd be rich!" Write a paper that uses vivid, unusual comparisons to make your point. By using comparisons, the things you describe should be clearly illuminated to your reader.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.5 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Research Topics</p> <p>A. Investigate current problems with gangs in high schools. What can be done about them? How can young people be discouraged from joining a gang? Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding gangs. Be sure to cite your sources used.</p> <p>B. Examine peer pressure. How can teenagers effectively cope with peer pressure? Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding peer pressure to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used.</p> <p>C. Police officers play an important role in the lives of the students in this book. Consider a career as a police officer. Find out how much education is needed, where you could go to school, how many years of study it takes, and what is required to become a police officer. Present your findings in an essay, poster,</p>	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.2 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.7 W.6-12.8 W.6-12.9 RI.6-12.1 RI.6-12.2 RI.6-12.4 RI.6-12.8</p>

<p>PowerPoint or other approved format. Be sure to cite your sources used.</p> <p>D. Investigate the job of newspaper reporters and the roles they play in the community. Investigate all the possible occupations associated with creating a television news show--producing, directing, writing, managing, etc. Find out how much college education is needed, where you could go to college, how many years of study it takes, and what is required to work on a news show. Present your findings in an essay, poster, PowerPoint or other approved format. Be sure to cite your sources used.</p> <p>E. Why are social networks and computers so important in the lives of many young people? What are some of the most popular social networks with teens? What are the advantages, disadvantages and dangers of each? Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding teens and social networks to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used.</p>	
<p>Persuasive Paper</p> <p>Write a persuasive paper that argues the following point. "Racial or ethnic barriers should make no difference when it comes to romantic relationships." OR "Racial or ethnic barriers should be seriously considered when it comes to romantic relationships." You may agree or disagree with the statement, but you may only argue one side of the issue.</p>	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Expository Essay</p> <p>"I'm terrified of water. I took swimming when I was little like everyone else, but I never learned. That's not exactly true. I learned how to swim, I just never got the nerve to let go. I know how to do rhythmic breathing, proper arm strokes, the flutter kick--all of that, but I just can't get away from the side of the pool. When I'm in the middle with nothing to hold onto, I panic. There's just nothing solid--nothing to grasp. The water slips through my hands and I flounder, then I start to sink, then I scream, then, of course, I get embarrassed. So I go to the pool, but I stay on the side, or splash with the little kids in the shallow end so their parents can go swim in the deep water. Even walking by the deep end makes me feel ill." Write an expository (explanatory) paper on learning to swim or the fear of drowning or some other common fear or challenge that young people commonly face. Explain how someone could go about overcoming the challenge.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Character Sketch</p> <p>Write a character sketch of Ben--what made him unique--his personality, his charm, his love of life. Use specifics from the book to illustrate your points.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Conversation/Dialogue</p> <p>In today's digital world people often live a large portion of their lives on-line. Social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and various blogs and wikis are used as tools to carry on conversations. Pretend that at least two of the characters in <i>Romiette and Julio</i> are having a conversation on one of the social networking sites that you are familiar with. What would they say? How would they update their social circle about what is going on in their lives? Choose a key event in the book and</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4</p>

<p>create a fake Facebook, Twitter or blog conversation. You could also draw different scenes to represent Instagram photos and include the conversation that goes with the photos.</p>	
<p>Poetry Write a poem about one of the following topics (or a similar topic):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Two of Us are Different ○ True Love ○ Strange Friends ○ Fear and Terror ○ Storm at Midnight ○ Misunderstanding 	<p>RL.6-12.4 W.6-12.3</p>
<p>Literary Analysis “Two households, both alike in dignity In fair Verona, where we lay our scene, From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.”</p> <p>The quote above comes from the prologue to <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>. Several times in the novel, the similarity of Romiette and Julio's names with the title characters in Shakespeare's play is noted. How are Romiette and Julio and Romeo and Juliet's lives similar? What other characters are similar? What other parallels did the author make with the play? Consider the message of the play in comparison to the novel. Write an essay that provides an analysis of what you think the authors are saying about love, hate and destiny. Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both texts. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.4 RL.6-12.5 RL.6-12.7 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.9</p>