



Chasing Pacquiao

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Grades 9-12

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Reading Guide by Rose Bystrom, L.A. Conservancy Volunteer

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the author decided on this particular title? Would you give the book a different title? Why or why not?
2. Do you have a hero or someone you look up to and want to emulate? If yes, who is your hero and why?
3. What should we do when our hero lets us down or does not meet our expectations? What qualities do you want your hero to have and why?
4. Bobby, the main character of the story, introduces us to a Filipino poetry form called Tanaga. It is a style of poetry having a total of 28 syllables, consisting of four lines with seven syllables each line. Write a poem in the Tanaga style about your hero.
5. Bobby writes poetry as an outlet for his emotions. Do you have a favorite activity to help you release your emotions? Describe what it is and why it works well for you.
6. What are three important life lessons you can learn from Bobby's story? Explain each one. Additionally, what lessons do Rex and Jorge's characters offer? How do their experiences contribute to the story's overall message?
7. The book explores Bobby's experiences as a queer teen, particularly the challenges he faces within his own Filipino community. What cultural or societal factors do you think might contribute to negative attitudes toward homosexuality in this community?



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8. What was Bobby’s initial reaction to coming out as a queer teen? Do you believe that his decision to hide his truth was the best way to handle his situation? Why or why not?
9. One of Bobby’s realizations is that everyone has some form of prejudice. Where in the story does Bobby demonstrate his own prejudice (see p.59)? Do you recognize any prejudices within yourself? If so, where do you think they come from, and why?
10. By recognizing and acknowledging our prejudices, we can work toward self-improvement. How did Bobby accomplish that when dealing with Vicki?
11. Alvarado Street in Los Angeles, where Bobby lives, had a rich history of boxing culture, shaped by the city's diverse immigrant communities. Manny Pacquiao is a famous boxer representing the Filipino community. Can you name other famous athletes or public figures and the migrant groups they represent?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Explore and visit Historic Filipinotown. Unidad Park, located at 1644 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046, is home to the nation’s largest Filipino American mural west of the Mississippi River. The mural was designed and painted by Eliseo Art Silva, who was inspired by the rich history of Filipino Americans’ involvement in the founding of the United Farm Workers movement. For more activities and information about L.A.’s Filipinotown, visit this link at the [L.A. Conservancy](#) website.

