

HURT GO HAPPY

By Ginny Rorby

Journal #1

Pre-reading

Sit quietly with your eyes closed for the next few moments, listening to the sounds around you and think about what they mean. Do you hear the hum of the computer, the ticking of a clock, or other sounds? What does each sound mean to you? After a minute or two, write a paragraph about the sounds, describing this experience. Explain.

Freewriting: Pre-reading

- Make a list of all the things you would miss if you were deaf.
- Choose one of those things and write about how your life would be different without having those sounds and how you cope with your loss.

AS YOU READ:

- Mark passages that describe Joey's experience of the world. Pay attention to which senses she uses to compensate for her deafness.
- (This will not be for a grade but we will use the text examples for discussion later.)

Group Meeting #1

- What do we learn about Joey's past in these four chapters? (Be prepared to give page numbers as proof!)
- Why does Joey never babysit Luke?
- Describe Joey's relationship with her mother. What character traits do you see in each one? What conflicts do you pick up on?
- What, according to Smiley, is the gift of being deaf?
- How does Joey communicate with Dr. Mansell in these chapters?
- Why does Dr. Mansell connect with Joey?
- In your WN, PREDICT what you see happening between Dr. Mansell, Sukari and Joey.
- If time permits, practice finger spelling YOUR name!

Group Meeting #2:

Independence

- Discuss your thoughts and reactions to what has happened in the first five chapters. Predict how you think Joey's relationship with her mother will change.
- Joey struggled with independence from her mother. Have you ever had this same feeling? Record in your WN.

JOURNAL #3

Discuss & Record

- Chapter 5
 - Why does Joey call Charlie and finally ask him to talk to her mother?
 - What does Joey find in her special “hiding” place?
 - What do we learn about Charlie’s family in this chapter?
 - What does Charlie tell Joey to always remember?

DISCUSSION – cont.

- **Chapter 6**

- As the chapter begins, what is Joey's mom accusing Joey of doing?
- How does mom treat Joey when she is mad at her?
- Who is Kenny? How does he feel about Joey?
- Why is Roxy upset in this chapter?
- Name a character trait Joey displays when mom catches her signing.
- How does chapter 6 end?

JOURNAL #4

- What do you think of Charlie going to Joey's mom about her deafness in chapter 7 ? Was he wrong to butt in? Do you admire him for getting involved or dislike him? Why?

Group Meeting #3: Courage

- Discuss what you think Joey will do to get Sukari back. What obstacles might she run into?
- In your WN, brainstorm and record a list of different causes YOU would be willing to be brave and stand up for. Why are each of these so important to you?

JOURNAL #6

- Read chapters 13 – 15.
- Using the cards, record in your journal one of the following for each chapter:

Predict

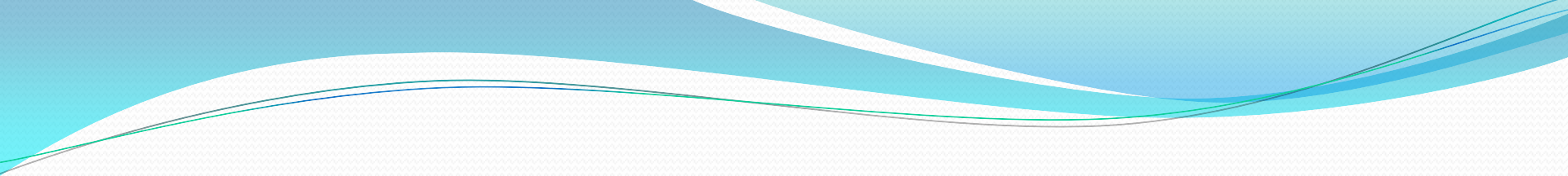
Clarify

Question

Summarize

JOURNAL #7

- What is the meaning of the title *Hurt Go Happy*? When does Joey realize the significance of this phrase? How might this phrase apply to Joey herself or others in the novel?

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- **Summarize:** When I summarize, I tell in my own words the important things I have read.
 - **Clarify An Idea:** I don't understand this idea OR Someone would be confused by this idea because _____.
 - **Question:** When I question, I ask something that can be answered as I read or after I finish reading. I might ask _____.
 - **Predict:** When I predict, I use clues from what I have read to help me figure out what will happen next. I predict_____.