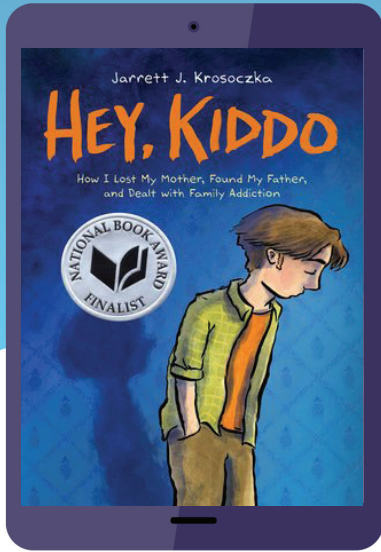


Name: _____



Student Reading Assessment



Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

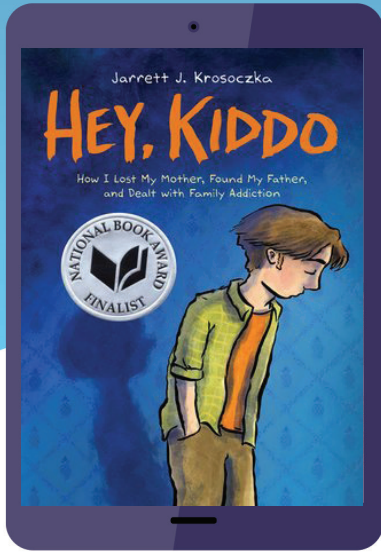
BEFORE READING:

Research drug addiction as a disease and its effects on the body and brain. What are the risk factors that can lead to drug abuse? Why does addiction happen, and why are younger people more susceptible to addiction? Discuss how drug addiction affects not only the lives of addicted, but others in their lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1 How do the colors of the graphic novel affect the tone? What else contributes to this tone?
- 2 Characterization is the process of revealing the personalities of characters and can be done directly with the author using precise words to describe the personality of the character, or indirectly through the character's actions, thoughts, appearance, etc. Using examples of both direct and indirect characterization, describe the major characters in Jarrett's life.
- 3 Discuss Jarrett's relationship with each of his family members throughout the novel. How do these relationships evolve throughout his life?
- 4 Using major incidences in his life, write journal entries from the perspectives of Jarrett as a small child, a preteen, an older teenager, and as an adult. How did Jarrett's views of the world and people around him change as he got older?
- 5 Evidence suggests that addiction is a combination of a person's upbringing, relationships, and environment (nurture) and genetic predisposition to addiction (nature). Was Leslie's addiction mostly caused more by "nature" or "nurture"? Provide evidence from both sides of the argument. If Leslie and Jarrett are mother and son and were both raised by Joe and Shirl, why didn't Jarrett follow the same path as his mother?
- 6 Shirl is often critical of Jarrett, his artwork, and Leslie. Is this a reflection of her true feelings towards her grandson and daughter, or has her past experiences impacted her behaviors? How else might Joe and Shirl's backgrounds have affected how they raised their children and Jarrett.

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Student Reading Assessment



Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

- 7 Explain how the purpose of sketching and artwork evolved throughout Jarrett's life. What intrinsic and extrinsic motivations did he have at various points in his life?
- 8 Why do you think Krosoczka included copies of original letters, artwork, and pictures in his graphic novel? What effect did these have on you and your understanding of the novel?
- 9 How does Jarrett view his mother at the end of the novel? How did her addiction impact Jarrett negatively and positively? What message is he trying to convey to the audience about addiction?
- 10 Describe the theme of the novel using evidence to support your response.
- 11 Explain why you think the title of the book was Hey, Kiddo. What does this reveal about Krosoczka's values and purpose in writing/drawing the novel?
- 12 In the author's note, Jarrett says, "When you're a kid and a teen, you're not in control of your circumstances. But the beautiful thing about growing up is that you get to create your own reality and your own family." Provide examples that show how this quote applies to the graphic novel as a whole.

ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Create a graphic novel of your life that shows your own emotional journey. If possible, include copies of relics, notes, pictures, etc. like in Hey, Kiddo.
- 2 Watch Jarrett J. Krosoczka's Ted Talk "How a Boy Became an Artist." As a speaker, what was his rhetorical purpose? What insight did it provide that was not included in the graphic novel? What points were solidified?