

Issue One: Taking a Stand

Before you read...

What is the title of this issue?

What do you think "Taking a Stand" means?

Is there a time in your life when you've taken a stand?

What things are important to you? What would you stand up for?

Remember, you can think about a piece without agreeing with it. You can respect someone else's opinion and still have your own.

While you read...

Look at the title of each piece.

What is the author writing about?

Who in the piece is taking a stand?

What does the author want you to learn?

After you read...

What was your favorite piece? Why?

Did any of the pieces make you think about something you hadn't thought about before?

Were there pieces you agreed with? Disagreed with?

How can we discuss a piece we disagree with while still being kind?

Artwork:

Do you recognize the person in the artwork?

Why do you think the artist chose to draw Captain America for this theme?

What does Captain America represent?

Who does Captain America stand up for?

Why did the artist add the words 'yes' and 'no' to the drawing?

Poems:

MONSTERS: What kind of monster does the first part of the poem depict?

How is that monster fought? In what ways do the monsters change as the poem continues?

How are these new monsters fought? What do you think the monsters of the future might be?

How can people work together to fight monsters?

STAND UP, SHINE BRIGHT: What does the first line of the poem mean? What are some examples of things you don't think are right with the world? Can you think of examples of people using their voices to speak up about these issues? Any young people? Do you think speaking up makes a difference?

PEACE ON YOUR PLATE: What do you think the author means by "peace on your plate?" Why does the author mention all of these animals? Explain this quote, "embrace the fresh taste

of dinner that didn't feel fear in its dying." What kind of food does the author want you to eat? How does this food show more compassion and caring? What can you know about the author from reading this poem?

LOVE IS JUST LOVE: What does the title mean? What can you tell about the author's beliefs? How does the author wish the world responded to her beliefs?

FREEDOM: What does catching a bug remind the author of? Why does the author release the bug? What people do you think the author is talking about?

STEP 1 TO LIFE: Explain the use of color in this poem? What do the colors represent? What are the rocks a metaphor for? What does the outside/inside of the rock represent? What does this line mean "Why must you be an inconvenience to my land" in the context of the poem? Why are the clouds called an inconvenience if they nourish the plants? What does good and bad have to do with black and white? What issue is the poem addressing?

Short Stories:

LINA'S STORY: Define Epistolary writing. Why did the author choose to narrate the story through an email? Why are some of the lines and phrases crossed out? What do they represent? Why is Lina afraid to tell anyone what happened to her? Is what Jeremy did wrong? Why or why not? Why doesn't Lina want other students to know? How did Lina change after the incident with Jeremy? Why do you think she changed? Did Lina do the right thing coming forward? How does the author want you to feel about Lina's story?

FRANKIE ABAGNALE AND THE FLYING DOOM BOTTLES: What is a "flying doom bottle?" What does Frankie want at the beginning of the story? How does her goal change by the end of the story? Why does Frankie feel like nobody listens to her? What does Frankie use as a distraction from her troubles? How is Frankie inspired by the story she reads in detention? What is environmental activism? When Frankie says, "now I know what to do about it," what does she mean? How does Frankie's activism pay off in the story? How does Frankie's interaction with Kayden change because of her activism? Does Frankie meet both of her goals?

Discussion Guide applies to Common Core Standards K-6 for Reading: Literature and Speaking and Listening with possible extensions to grades 7-12.