

Name _____ Date _____

“La Bamba”

1. On page 164, the author describes why Manuel volunteered for the talent show. Why does Manuel think he volunteered?

2. On page 164, the story states that he “yearns for the limelight.” What does it mean to be in the limelight?

3. Manuel is described as average. Average means not great, not awful, just regular, like everyone else. What makes him think that he is average?

4. Reread the section that begins with “And he wanted to impress the girls...” and stop at the end of the paragraph. What does Manuel mean when he says he should be “reasonable”? Why does he want to impress the second prettiest girl in class?

5. On page 166, the author describes Manuel as he pantomimes the song. Why did he pantomime the song for Benny?

6. What does the author say Benny suggests to Manuel to help him improve his performance?

7. On page 166, the rehearsal for the talent show is taking place. What happens to Manuel's record during the rehearsal?

8. Reread the last two paragraphs on page 166. What are Manuel's hopes for the talent show?

9. On page 168, the author wrote "But Manuel fell asleep confident that nothing would go wrong this time." Explain this sentence.

10. On page 170, Mr. Royal, the school's talent coordinator, says, "I'm sure that you'll be both pleased and amazed that our little school houses so much talent." What does this mean?

11. How is the start of the talent show going so far? (Pgs. 170-171)

12. What words in the story describe the emotions Manuel has experienced so far in the story?
How is he feeling moments before he steps on stage? (Pg. 171)

13. How did the author describe the audience's reaction and how it changes throughout Manuel's performance?

14. Go back and reread the flashlight incident on page 168 and compare it with the talent show incident on page 173. Compare and contrast those two situations.

15. After the performance, why was Manuel confused? He said he was “beyond caring.” What does that phrase mean?
16. Reread the incident at the talent show on pages 174 – 175. Did the record skip by accident or did Manuel make it skip on purpose? What did the audience think? What did Manuel let his father believe?
17. Reread the final paragraph of the story. What is the significance of ending the story with the word *probably*? What parts of the story support your thinking?