



Return to Sender Discussion Questions

1. Why do Tyler's parents send him to stay with his aunt? What do they hope to accomplish by doing this?
2. What do Tyler's parents do to try and save the farm? Why is Tyler upset when he learns about their plans?
3. Why does Mari's father not want her to mail the letters she writes?
4. What favorite activity did Tyler learn from Gramps that he shares with Mari?
5. Both Tyler and Mari's families are farmers. How are they alike? How are they different?
6. The book spans an entire year and covers many holidays. Which was your favorite? Why?
7. Why does Mari's uncle run from the police? What happens to her uncle?
8. What makes Mr. Rosetti's look differently at the plight of illegal aliens?
9. How does Mr. Bicknell help? Why do Tyler and Mari both respect Mr. Bicknell so much? What types of things do they learn in his class?
10. When Tyler found the money, why was it hard for him to decide what to do with it?
11. Why do you think Mr. Calhoun was willing to help Mari's uncle?
12. How did Tyler change in the year that he knew Mari?

Compiled from a guide created by Helen Azarian and Emily Nelson as part of a project for Cultural Literacy Programming for Children, Teens and Families, taken May 2011 from Dr. Jamie C. Naidoo at the University of Alabama.