

Name: _____

Zoot Suit Introductory Questions

Directions: Pick 3 questions from the list to answer in writing on the back of the page. You can choose questions that you already answered in conversations with classmates or questions that you have not yet had the chance to answer.

1. Do you always believe what you see on the news or read in the newspaper? Why or why not?
2. On the whole, do the police cause or prevent more trouble in cities? Why?
3. What are some factors that get in the way of having a fair trial?
4. What is the best way to prove your innocence to people who already believe you are guilty?
5. Have you ever been accused of something you did not do? Why do you think you were blamed for this?
6. How much can you know about a person just by looking at him or her?
7. What do people think of you when they first see you? Why do you think they make these assumptions?
8. What stereotypes do people of other races have about your race?
9. Can someone who is different from you help you when you're in trouble? Why or why not (or under what circumstances)?
10. Can a person without political power make a difference? Why or why not?
11. Who do you listen to most about what's right and wrong or what decisions to make? (Family? Friends? No one but yourself?)
12. When young people fight for a cause, how are they seen by adults? What about when adults fight for a cause? Why is there a difference?
13. Which fights racism more effectively: separatism (each group sticking to themselves) or integration (different groups mixing)? Why?
14. What would you do if you were accused of something just because you were in the wrong place at the wrong time?
15. Based on what you know about L.A., would you want to live there? Why or why not?
16. In what ways does being at war affect the citizens of a country (think about how many Americans view Middle Eastern individuals and Muslims these days)?
17. What is the best way to fight injustice?
18. Do you generally trust people who have political power (police, judges, etc)? Why or why not?
19. What can you tell about someone by the way he or she speaks? What do people think about you based on how you speak?
20. In a city where there is a lot of gang tension, is it safe to assume that most (or all) violent crimes are gang-related? Why or why not?
21. Should you believe someone who says he or she is innocent of a crime that he or she has been accused of? Why or why not?
22. Do you think young people are discriminated against? If so, how and why?
23. What do you know about the play *Zoot Suit* or the Zoot Suit Riots?
24. Are there any causes worth fighting for? What are they, and why would you fight for them?

Name: _____

Directions: Write the question numbers you have chosen to respond to, and then write your responses on the lines below.

My response to Question # _____:

My response to Question # _____:

My response to Question # _____:
