1. Mark’s account alternates between moments of childlike wonder at his father’s exploits and absolute terror at his abuses. Which moments stand out to you? How do these two feelings coexist?

2. Mark’s mother says, “Your father values things and uses people” (page 97). How is this statement reflective of life with the Tank Man?

3. Mark writes, “The word Montana took on an individual and urgent voice, walking into my head and whispering of endless forests and vast lakes, isolated places where I could wander forever without hearing the syllable of my name pronounced. In Montana I could choose my own name, maybe, a new name that would make me a new person.” (page 210). Why does Mark pin his dreams on Montana? What does Montana represent for him?

4. Describe Mark’s friendship with Zeke. Why is their bond so strong?

5. “Sometimes Mom took the fight right out of him. Thing was, sometimes she didn’t. Sometimes Dad hung on to the fight and then gave it back later.” (page 230). Describe Mark’s mother and her relationship with Mark’s father. How does she choose her battles? Why does she intercede to save Zeke from the Tank Man’s wrath?

6. When Mark’s mother decides to divorce the Tank Man, what changes for Mark? What doesn’t?

7. When Mark is in college, he realizes, “I knew the sound and the name of the anger inside me. I was becoming my father.” (page 288). How does this realization affect Mark? How does he deal with it?

8. Mark’s life moves from occasionally attending church with his mother, to Sunday TV services with his grandparents, to church camp, to walking an aisle in a small Montana church, to the mission field in Cambodia.

   What leads Mark to each of these destinations in his spiritual journey? How does Mark change at each stop?

9. Mark writes, “Suddenly I saw it. God had used the evil of my youth to prepare me for my time in Cambodia.” (page 331). In what ways do you see that Mark’s childhood prepared him for his assignment in Cambodia? How did the Tank Man’s son become a Papa to orphans?

10. Why does Mark invite the Tank Man to hear his testimony in church? How does this event “restore their relationship” (page 344)?

11. Mark begins and ends the book with, “I was—and always will be—the Tank Man’s son” (pages 2 and 345). What does this statement mean? How does Mark’s identity as the Tank Man’s son change throughout the book?