

What is JOEY THE GOOD about?

JOEY THE GOOD is the sometimes funny, sometimes heart-tugging story of 12-year-old Joey, a.k.a. Giovanni, a superhero-obsessed kid from an Italian family who's still reeling from the sudden loss of his grandfather two years earlier and has decided that sitting on his couch watching soccer is the best way to avoid his grief. But his older cousin Leo shows up with this crazy plan for the two of them to hike one of the tallest mountains in the country together. No way does he want to spend the summer doing anything with his super-athletic older cousin Leo. But with his mom on his case, his best friend spending more time with his new cross-country team, and Nonno meddling from the grave, Joey reluctantly finds himself getting up at the crack of dawn to hike. And maybe not hating it as much as he thought.

In what grades can I use this Teacher's Guide?

JOEY THE GOOD is a middle-grade book best suited for grades 3 through 7. The Teacher's Guide is mostly aligned with ELA standards for 5th through 7th grade.

Where can I order copies of the book?

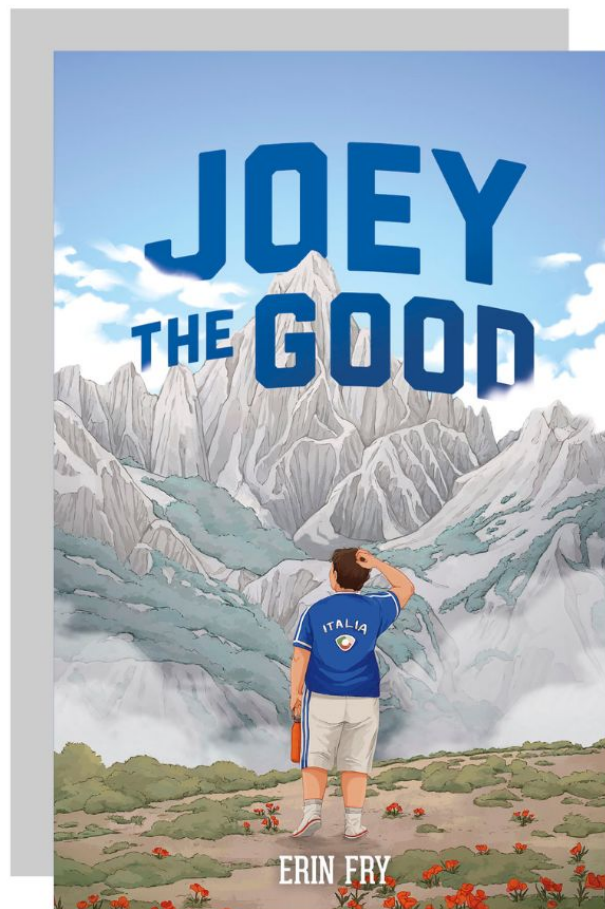
For a class-set of books, please contact sales@northstareditions.com. The book is also available online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Target.

Where can I find out more about the author?

For more information about Erin Fry, including other books she's written, please visit her website: www.erinmfry.com.

You can also check out a Q and A with her at The Nerd Daily.

Erin Fry began her career as a middle school educator but now works from home as a full-time writer alongside her favorite canine coworkers, Berkeley and Fitzgerald. She is also the founder of 241 Books where fiction and fact love to meet. She is the published author of four novels for young readers, including her debut novel *Losing It*. She believes wholeheartedly that stories have the power to connect, inspire, and help us understand the world a little better. When she isn't writing, she loves to crochet, paint, and swim. She lives in Southern California but travels frequently to visit her three kids who never seem to stay in one spot in the world for long. In 2013, she hiked Mount Whitney in one day and counts it as one of the most difficult and rewarding things she's ever done.



GUIDE OVERVIEW

ELA Standards Alignment (G4-6)

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes, and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone
- Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text and describe how it influences how events are described.
- Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics"). Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not").
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade-level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson Tips

These materials are designed to guide you and your students through a whole-class reading of JOEY THE GOOD. They include the following:

- pre-reading activities and discussion ideas
- chapter-by-chapter questions and activities that are designed to build background knowledge, increase comprehension, and help students connect to the characters and story
- writing activities
- vocabulary-building activities
- end-of-book writing prompts

Students will need to record their responses on their own paper.

Pick Three

Look closely at the book's cover. What clues does it provide about the book's main character? About the story itself?

Choose three pages in the book before page 200. Write down one sentence or phrase from each of those pages that makes you wonder about the story. (NOTE: To avoid spoilers, don't choose a page after page 200.)

Based on the cover image and the 3 sentences or phrases you wrote down, make 3 predictions using the sentence starters below.

1. The book is mostly about . . .
2. Joey is the kind of character who . . .
3. One thing that happens is . . .
4. I would mostly describe this book as . . .

Start at the End

Read the **Author's Note** at the back of the book which gives more information on several hikes that appear in the story and the causes and symptoms of multiple sclerosis. A main character in the book reveals he has M.S. After learning a little about the disease, how might M.S. affect his ability to hike?

Four Corners

Your teacher has labeled each corner of the room with a letter from A to D. For each question below, choose a response. When your teacher tells you to, move to the corner that is labeled with the letter you chose. Be prepared to defend your answer.

1. What do you believe to be most true about friendships?
 - a. A good friend is a friend forever.
 - b. A good friend is someone who likes the same things you do.
 - c. Friendships don't always last.
 - d. It's good to have a lot of friends.
2. Which of these statements do you most agree with?
 - a. It's okay not to talk about some things, especially things that are bothering you.
 - b. It's always good to talk about things that are bothering you.
 - c. Sometimes talking about something makes it even worse.
 - d. You should only talk about important things with people you trust.
3. Which of these statements do you most identify or connect with?
 - a. It's important to try new things even if you don't want to.
 - b. Trying something new can be scary.
 - c. Trying new things is what makes life exciting and fun.
 - d. It's okay to NOT try something new if you aren't excited about it.

Reading Recap

1. Joey argues that the world needs more “fluffy” superheroes. What does he mean by that?
2. Why is Joey upset by the arrival of Xander’s friends?
3. Why does Joey not want to talk about Nonno?
4. How does Joey feel about Desiree? How do you know?
5. Chapter 2 ends with Joey wondering if he and Xander are no longer a *we*. What makes him think that?

5-3-1

Think about what you’ve learned about Joey in these first two chapters.

- Write 5 words to describe Joey. Why did you choose those words?
- Write 3 facts that you learn about Joey. Next to each write a number from 1-5 to show how important you think that fact will be to the story. (For example, write a 5 if you think it will be VERY important.)
- Write 1 opinion you have about Joey after reading these chapters.

Mood Meter

The mood of a scene or chapter is how it makes you feel as you read it. Draw this Mood Meter on your own paper. Then, write a #1 on the meter to show the mood at the beginning of the chapters. Write a #2 to show the mood at the end of the chapters.



Under each number, write a page number that BEST explains why you placed each number where you did.

Learn Italian

Look at how the Italian phrase ***molto bene*** is used on page 12.

*Mario pushed through the swinging kitchen door. He saw our full table, and his face lit up. He opened his arms wide and said, “**Molto bene!**” Like Nonno would have, if he’d been here . . . This wasn’t molto bene. It was molto messed up.*

In Italian, *molto bene* means “very good” and is pronounced MOHL-toh BEH-nay. Say it out loud a few times. When your teacher tells you to, turn to a partner and try to use it in a sentence. Then, see if you can use it in conversation sometime today.

Word Play

Look at the word **nonexistent** as it is used on page 7.

*“You’re mistaking thin for fit.” I pointed to my **nonexistent** bicep. “Easy mistake. I could take out Ultron, no problem.”*

- The prefix *non-* means “not or lack of.” How does that help you understand the meaning of “nonexistent”?
- What do you think the word **non-negotiable** means?
- Can you think of another word that can be paired with the prefix *non-*?

Write Now

Imagine you are Joey. Your mom or dad texts you to ask about your day. Write a short text describing your lunch with Xander. Include at least one emoji.

Reading Recap

1. Why does cooking remind Joey so much of Nonno?
2. Foreshadowing is when an author hints at something that will happen later in the story. On page 20, Nonna tells Joey that Nonno loved him “no matter what happened that day at the lake.” What do you think happened at the lake? How is this foreshadowing?
3. Why is Joey unhappy that his cousin Leo is coming to visit?
4. What are two things you learn about Leo in these chapters?

Call Me Joey

The chapter titles are all names that Joey either gives himself or that another character gives him. For each chapter, write a short explanation of why Joey’s name fits that chapter.

- Chapter 3: *Joey the Couch King*
- Chapter 4: *Joey the Opposite of Good*

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of chapters 3 and 4? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from these chapters that supports your answer.



Learn Italian

Look at how the Italian word **perfetto** is used on page 21.

*I could listen to Bocelli and imagine Nonno smiling as the song ended and saying, “**Perfetto**.”*

In Italian, perfetto means “perfect” and is pronounced puh-**FEHT**-oh. Say it out loud a few times. When your teacher says, turn to a partner and try to use it in a sentence. Then, see if you can use it in conversation somewhere in your day.

Word Play

Look at the word **commiserated** as it is used on page 24.

*But watching him and Dad at dinner that night laughing as they told stories of other riders and **commiserated** over their saddle-sore butts brought on a painful ping of jealousy.*

When you *commiserate* with someone, you sympathize with them. The word comes from the prefix *com-* which means **with** and the Latin root *miserari* which means **pity**. Which of these is the best example of commiserating?

- 1 - You watch a kid accidentally drop his ice cream cone on the ground. You remember doing the same thing a few weeks ago and feel bad for the kid.
- 2 - Your dad gets home from shopping and asks you to help him bring in the groceries. You hop up to help.
- 3 - Your best friend just got a new phone. As he shows off how awesome it is, you wish you had one, too.
- 4 - Your mom told you to clean your room while she was running some errands, but you forgot. She just walked in the door and you know she’s not going to be happy.

Write Now

Joey likes to chill out on the couch with snacks and watch TV. Leo likes to do outside activities like kayaking and mountain climbing. Are you more like Joey or Leo? Write a short paragraph stating who you are more like and why.

Reading Recap

- 1.What does Joey’s mom mean when she says, “He’s family,” on page 32?
- 2.The author hints that something is wrong with Leo. Find one passage where a character’s actions suggest that.
- 3.Joeey’s not excited about this hike with Leo for a few reasons. Explain two of them.
- 4.How do we know that the relationship between Leo and Joey hasn't always been like it is now?
- 5.Why do you think Joey keeps hiking instead of bailing out like he says he wants to?

Talk About It: My Fun List

At the top of page 37, Joey lists what makes his life fun.

What made my life fun was an ice cream sundae with extra sprinkles, Italy beating France in soccer, and having a lasagna turn out perfectly. I was now adding air conditioning to that list.

What makes your life fun? When your teacher tells you to, turn to a partner and share your own list.

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of chapters 5 and 6? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from these chapters that supports your answer.

Happy/Upbeat	Content/Relaxed	Neutral	Concerned/Worried	Angry/Upset

Learn Italian

Look at how the Italian word **cuginetto** is used on page 30.

*He held out a fist for me to bump. “Yo! **Cuginetto!** Sorry to ruin your beauty sleep.”*

In Italian, cuginetto refers to a younger male cousin and is pronounced ku-jeh-NEH-toh. A younger girl cousin is a cuginetta. Say both words out loud a few times. Do you have a cuginetto/cuginetta? Are YOU a cuginetto/cuginetta? When your teacher tells you to, talk to a partner about both the benefits and drawbacks of being a little cousin.

Word Play

Look at the word **venomous** as it is used on page 38.

I felt venomous, like a snake that wanted to strike out at Leo and watch him wither to the ground.

A *venomous* animal can inject poison when it stings or bites something else. Notice the suffix *-ous* which means “full of.” When you add *-ous* to a noun, it becomes an adjective.

1- Think of at least two venomous animals. Write them down and be ready to share your answers.

2- Look at the following nouns. Pick the TWO words that you can make into new words by adding *-ous*. Write the new words and their meanings.

fame

life

hunger

victory

anger

Write Now

On page 35, Joey says, “No one could predict when bad things happened.” Write about a time that something bad happened to either you, your family, your community, or even in the world. How would it have been different if you COULD have predicted it?

Reading Recap

1. On page 39, Joey says that it felt like “the whole world was setting a pace [he] could no longer keep up with.” What do you think he meant?
2. How would you describe Uncle Eddie?
3. What is Leo’s epic plan? Why does he want to do it?
4. How does Xander react when Joey tells him Leo’s plan?

Go Figure!

Figurative language helps writers describe something usually by comparing it to something else. One type of figurative language is personification, which is when something that is not human is acting in a humanlike way. Look at this example of personification from page 43.

*I fought the **panic clawing** at me from the inside.*

Draw the word PANIC and give it claws. The author could have written something like, “I felt panic inside.” How does “panic clawing” paint a better picture of what Joey is feeling?

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of chapters 7 and 8? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from these chapters that supports your answer.



Plot Point Alert

This scene is important to the rest of the book because it contains the **inciting incident**. This is an event that happens to force the main character on a different path. Leo’s plan to climb Mt. Whitney is going to change Joey’s life and also become one of his biggest challenges in the story. Without an inciting incident, there is no real story.

Think about what you know about Joey so far, including his relationship with Leo and his self-proclaimed title of Couch King. How is Leo’s idea to climb Mt. Whitney likely going to make Joey’s life difficult?

Word Play

Look at the words **certified** and **certifiable** on page 48.

*“Honestly, he’s a **certifiable** jerk.” “I think it’s ‘**certified**.’ You’re **certifiable** if you’re insane.”*

Certified and **certifiable** have similar meanings; both describe something that is real or authentic. However, **certifiable** can also refer to someone who needs treatment for a mental health condition (and may need a **certified** doctor’s help!)

The root **cert** means true or sure. Can you think of at least two other words that have this root? What do they mean?

Write Now

The U.S. Forest Service has a great overview of how to prepare to hike Mt. Whitney. Click [HERE](#) to read it.

Then, write a note from Joey’s perspective to Leo in which you argue why hiking Mt. Whitney is not a good idea. Use information from the Forest Service resource in your note.

Reading Recap

1. How does Joey feel about going fishing? Why does he feel that way?
2. Why does Joey wander off by himself?
3. On page 54, how does Joey describe what panic feels like? Have you ever felt this way?
4. Why do you think Leo tells Joey not to tell anybody?
5. On page 57, Joey says he was childish and selfish. Do you agree?
6. Joey feels a lot of guilt about that day at the lake. Do you think he deserves to feel guilty?

Picture It

This scene is written using a lot of description and detail. Find a sentence in this chapter that created a picture in your mind. Write it down. Then, explain why you chose it.

Call Me Joey

This chapter is titled, “Joey the Ragazzo Sciocco.” We learn on page 51 that this translates to “Joey the Foolish Boy.” In what ways is this a good title for this chapter? In what ways is it not a good title? If you were the author, would you have chosen a different title?

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of chapter 9? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from this chapter that supports your answer.



Talk About It: Flashback

A flashback is an event that happened before the story started. Flashbacks help readers understand why characters do, say, or feel certain things.

Chapter 9 is a flashback to the day that Nonno died years before the story started. When your teacher tells you to, talk with a partner about what you learn about Joey, Leo, and Nonno from this flashback. Why do you think the author chose to write this flashback with such great detail?

Learn Italian

Look at how the Italian expression **tutto bene** is used on page 50.

*“You sure you’re alright?” she asked. He kissed her cheek again and then waved her off. **“Tutto bene.”***

In Italian, **tutto bene** means “everything’s fine” and is pronounced TU-toh BEH-nay. Say it out loud a few times. When your teacher tells you to, ask a partner a question to which they can respond, “Tutto bene.” Then, see if you can use this expression some other time in the next day or two.

Write Now

How would Leo’s version of the events of this chapter be different from Joey’s? Write a conversation between Leo and Joey’s mom or dad in which they ask him questions about what happened. As you write your dialogue, make sure to use quotation marks to show what each person is saying.

Reading Recap

1. How does Joey react to his mom's news that Leo is staying the whole summer?
2. There are clues in this chapter that Nonna and Joey's mom aren't telling him the whole story. Find one of them.
3. Why is Joey surprised that his mom agreed to let them hike in the morning?
4. What do we learn about Xander and his family in chapter 11? How has this affected Joey and Xander's friendship?
5. Why does Joey decide to try hiking by the end of chapter 11? Do you think he's making the right decision?
6. Why is Joey convinced that Nonno has something to do with Stubby being there?
7. How does Joey react after meeting Stubby?

Two Sides

In Chapter 11, Leo argues why they should hike Mt. Whitney and Joey argues why they shouldn't. Make a list of their main arguments. Whose arguments do you think are stronger?

The Ascenders

If you ascend something, you climb it or go up it. Together, The Ascenders will be climbing mountains. On pages 69-70, Joey gives his first impression of each person in the group. He also gives names to three of them: Angry Cat Girl, Tall Rocker Dude, and Scrawny Boy. Make a list of each Ascender (not including Joey and Leo) by giving them a name based on Joey's description.

For example, you might write Old Guy with Dog.

Now, look at your list. How can descriptive names like these be helpful when you meet someone new? How can they be harmful?

Another Way to Say It

Look at this sentence on page 60.

The look she gave me could have single-handedly stopped an entire freeway of cars.

The author could have written: *My mom gave me an angry look.* Why do you think she chose to write this sentence instead? Have you ever gotten a look like this?

Word Play

Look at the word **telepathically** on page 70.

*I tried to communicate **telepathically** how much I detested him.*

The prefix tele- means "to send over a large distance." What do you think it means to communicate something telepathically? Write your guess and then look the word up online to see if you are correct.

Talk About It: Coincidence

Joey is convinced that Stubby's presence is not a coincidence, or when two or more things happen at the same time in a surprising way. When your teacher tells you to, find a partner and discuss this question:

- Is there such a thing as a coincidence? Or do all things happen for a reason?

Reading Recap

1. Joey is clearly not excited about hiking. Find an example in Chapter 13 that shows this.
2. What does Joey accidentally learn about Leo from Deb?
3. Why doesn't Joey believe Deb at first? What changes his mind?
4. What symptoms of M.S. has Leo experienced?
5. How does Joey feel when Leo tells him about his diagnosis?

Plot Point

Joey has made it clear in the first chapters that he doesn't want to hike with Leo. He's only agreed to do it to get his mom off his back and maybe show Xander he does things other than sit on the couch. How do you think these chapters are an important turning point in the story? When your teacher tells you to, discuss these questions with a partner.

- Do you think that learning that Leo has M.S. will change Joey's willingness to hike?
- How do these chapters add to the overall conflict of the book?
- Joey says there are a lot of "could go wrongs" in Leo's plan. What does he mean by that?

Go Figure!

A simile is a type of figurative language that uses the words "like" or "as" to show a comparison between two unlike things. For example, on page 75, the author uses this simile to show Tall Rocker Dude's mood.

*Tall Rocker Dude pulled the headphones up to cover his ears, dropped his chin, and started walking **like he was headed toward his last meal**.*

Find two more examples of similes in Chapters 13 and 14. After each, write why the author used them. In other words, what are they helping show to the reader.

Be careful! Not every sentence with the words "like" or "as" is a simile! Look for those that are making a comparison.

Word Play

Look at the word **maneuvering** on page 77.

*That dog was clearly some beyond-the grave **maneuvering** by my grandfather.*

The Latin root **man** means "hand." When you **maneuver** something, you guide it with a specific purpose in mind. What are some things you might try to maneuver? Can you think of another word with the root **man**?

Write Now

This story is told in first-person from Joey's point of view. This means we only get to know what Joey is thinking unless other characters tell us through dialogue. Imagine if Chapter 14 were told from Leo's point of view. What would he be thinking?

Pick a section of text that is at least 5-6 lines. Rewrite it in first person from Leo's point of view. This means you will use the pronouns "me" and "I" as if you are writing as Leo.

Hint: Check out the top of page 83 for a great section of text to rewrite from Leo's perspective.

Reading Recap

1. Why do you think this chapter is titled, “Just Joey”?
2. How does Xander react when Joey tells him that Leo has M.S.?
3. Joey admits on page 88 that he might be trying to find an excuse not to hike. Why does he now want to hike?
4. Do you think Joey has a right to be annoyed and frustrated with Xander during mini-golf? Why or why not?
5. How do you feel about Desiree at this point in the book? Use a specific example from the text that helped you decide if you like or dislike her.

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of chapters 15 and 16? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from this chapter that supports your answer.



Learn Italian

Look at how the Italian word **biscotti** is used on page 86.

*Nonna set a plate full of **biscotti** on the kitchen table in front of me.*

Biscotti are Italian cookies. The word comes from the Latin and translates to “twice cooked.” That’s because these delicious cookies are baked twice which makes them crunchier than most American cookies. They were first made in ancient Rome almost 2,000 years ago. Soldiers took them on long journeys through the Roman Empire because they lasted a long time without going bad. Today, Italians often eat biscotti with an espresso, or strong cup of coffee.

Word Play

Look at the word **underestimate** on page 88.

*Xander stared at me like I was saying two plus two equaled three. “Why do you do that?”
I squinted at him. “Do what?”
“**Underestimate** yourself. Pretend you can’t do stuff.”*

The prefix “under” means less, not enough, or below. If you underestimate someone, you place a lower value on them than they probably deserve. When your teacher tells you to, find a partner and discuss these questions together.

- Why might someone *underestimate* someone else?
- Think of another word that starts with the prefix “under.” How does knowing the meaning of this prefix help you understand the meaning of the word?

Write Away

On page 88, Joey and Xander have a disagreement about what makes someone a hero.

“You said it yourself. You’ll get to do something really cool. And you’ll get to help your cousin in the process. Total hero stuff, man.”

I was not superhero material. I was Joey. Joey the Slow. Joey the Guy Who Made Great Focaccia. Joey the Dependable. I was not, never had been, and never would be Joey the Hero.

What do you think is “hero stuff”? Write a paragraph in which you describe what you think makes someone a hero . . . or doesn’t.

Reading Recap

1. Joey keeps hiking every day even though he says he wants to quit. Why do you think that is?
2. Write down three things you learn about Dante in these chapters.
3. Joey says in Chapter 17 that people who are fun to be with are often having fun themselves. Do you agree? Why might that be so?
4. How do Joey's feelings about hiking change in these chapters?
5. Why do Joey and Leo skip a few days of hiking?
6. Does Joey have a good time hanging out with Xander?
7. Why does Joey get angry at Nonna?
8. Write down three things that happened in these chapters that you think are important to the story.

Mood Meter

How does the general mood change from Chapter 17 to 18? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood in Chapter 17 and mark an O to show the mood in Chapter 18. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Learn Italian

Look at how the Italian phrase **la dolce vita** is used on page 95.

But Nonno squeezed both of our shoulders and said, "La dolce vita."

This Italian expression means "the sweet life" and is pronounced leh DOHL-chay VEE-tah. Nonno often said it to Leo and Joey when he was feeling the joy of being together with them.

Can you remember a "la dolce vita" moment in your life? When your teacher says, find a partner and share your memory. Try to say the expression a few times to practice it.

Word Play

Look at the word **invincible** on page 103.

*"I've always thought of Leo as **invincible**, you know? Like he could do anything."*

If you are invincible, no one can defeat or conquer you. The word combines the prefix "in" which means *not* and the Latin verb "vincere" which means *to conquer*. When your teacher tells you to, find a partner. Together, share your ideas about these questions.

- What makes a person like Leo seem invincible? Is it possible to be truly invincible?
- Look at the words listed below. Knowing what the prefix "in" means, what do you think they mean?
incapable, insecure, indefinite
- What is another word that starts with the prefix in- (meaning not)?

Write Away

On page 97, Leo gives each character a Wikipedia-like description. Using those as models, write a similar one for Leo or Joey.

Reading Recap

1. Why do you think Joey feels unsettled about the day he spent cooking with Xander?
2. Why does Joey think Xander came to his house? Why is he really there?
3. Are Xander and Leo wrong to hang out without Joey?
4. Chapter 20 is entitled, "Joey, the Angry Cuginetto." Who do you think Joey is really angry with?
5. In Chapter 20, why do you think Leo says he has nowhere else to go?
6. Why does Joey feel such guilt about Nonno's death? Why might Leo feel guilty, too?

Mood Meter

How does the general mood change from Chapter 19 to 20? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood in Chapter 19 and mark an O to show the mood in Chapter 20. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Word Play

Some words have what are called **connotations**. These are feelings that we get when we use or hear a certain word used. For example, If you use the word "stench" when you are talking about the smell of your mom's cooking, your mom is likely to be more upset than if you use the word "aroma." Yet, both words refer to the smell of something. Stench has a negative connotation. Aroma has a positive one.

Look at these sentences from the book. With a partner, decide if the underlined word has a connotation that is positive, negative, or neutral. Then, discuss why the author probably chose to use that word in particular.

- I wanted to snap, "I'm here, aren't I?"
- Stubby trotted obediently beside him.
- As the group started up the trail, she slunk up next to me.
- Eventually, Leo sneezed, and they bolted off into the forest.
- He stalked out of the room.

Write Away

In Chapter 20, Joey confronts Leo about running with Xander. Because Joey is the narrator of this story, we get to know his thoughts. We only know what Leo is feeling through his words and actions. But it's clear that he doesn't understand why Joey is so angry.

Pick a moment during the argument between Joey and Leo in Chapter 20. Rewrite it from Leo's point of view. Stay in first person which means you'll use the pronouns "I" and "me" as you show what Leo is thinking and feeling during this scene.

Reading Recap

1. How has Joey's attitude about hiking changed since the first hike he did with Leo?
2. Joey notes that Romero seems to be Dante's tormentor but also his protector. What does he mean by this?
3. Do you think Joey, Dante, and Maya did the right thing when they encountered the sheep? Why?
4. What are trail angels?
5. How is Joey's relationship with Leo changing? How do you know?

Word Play

Look at the words **tormentor** and **protector** on page 117.

He was like Dante's tormentor and protector wrapped together.

The suffix "or" means "one who does something." So a *tormentor* is someone who torments someone else. A *protector* is someone who protects them.

When your teacher tells you to, find a partner. Use what you know about the suffix -or to figure out what these words mean. Then, each of you should pick one to pretend to be. Imagine you have just met each other at a party. Have a conversation where you talk about what you do for a living.

- actor
- dictator
- operator
- jailor
- contractor

Learn Italian

On page 118, Leo asks Romero if he's heard of Andrea Bocelli.

Bocelli is a famous singer from Italy who sings both opera and pop music. He became completely blind at the age of twelve after a head injury he got while playing soccer. One of his most famous songs is "Con Te Partirò." The title, when translated to English, means "with you, I will go." The song is about saying goodbye to someone and the feeling of loss that goes with that.

Take a moment to find the Italian version of the song online and listen to it. How does the song make you feel?

Symbolism is when something in a story is used to represent something else. How might this song be an example of symbolism in the story?

Write Away

Joey shares how glad he is that the showdown with the sheep ended well and that he wasn't going to end up in the news. Imagine that the local news DOES find out about the incident with the sheep. Write a short news article in which you describe the encounter with the sheep. Your article should have:

- A catchy headline
- Quotes from Joey about what happened
- Details that explain the five Ws: who, what, when, where, and why it's newsworthy

Reading Recap

1. Do you agree with Nonna that slow is good?
2. What is Leo's reaction when Joey pushes him onto the bed?
3. Why is it so hard for Joey to talk to Leo about Nonno?
4. The chapter ends with Joey and Leo goofing around and laughing, "like we used to do." Why is that phrase significant?
5. Joey is excited to hike with Xander, but then disappointed. Why?
6. Joey and Leo seem to be growing closer. What is happening to Joey's relationship with Xander? Why?

Mood Meter

How does the general mood change from Chapter 23 to 24? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood in Chapter 23 and mark an O to show the mood in Chapter 24. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Word Play

Chapter 24 is entitled, "Joey the Duped."

If you are duped by someone, they have tricked or cheated you. In what ways was Joey duped by Xander in this chapter?

Can you think of a time when you were duped or when you duped someone else? When your teacher tells you to, share your thoughts with a partner.

Mountain Metaphor

Throughout this book, Joey is often climbing a mountain as he hikes. But climbing mountains can also be a metaphor. A metaphor is when something represents or is a symbol for something else.

Think about what the mountain represents for Joey. Draw a picture that illustrates how climbing mountains serves as a metaphor throughout this book. Label your drawing so it is clear what the mountain represents to Joey.

Team Joey v. Team Xander

Joey gets upset because Xander invited his friends on the hike without asking. Xander doesn't seem to understand why Joey is mad about this.

With your teacher's help, get into groups of four. Decide which two of you will be Team Joey and which will be Team Xander. Each team will argue in favor of the following statements.

Team Joey: *I have every right to be angry that Xander invited his friend without asking.*

Team Xander: *I have every right to invite my friends since hiking was my idea in the first place.*

Take a few minutes to decide the best support for your team's argument. Then, hold a short mini-debate by following this structure:

Team Joey argues for 1 minute.

Team Xander argues for 1 minute.

1-minute break to discuss ideas in teams

Team Xander argues for 1 minute.

Team Joey argues for 1 minute.

Share ideas to this question: *Why is it important to look at another person's perspective?*

Reading Recap

1. How are Leo and Joey an example of irony?
2. What happens on the hike that makes Joey feel disappointed?
3. What does Desiree’s story about her neighbor reveal about her?
4. When Joey sees Leo looking content at the top of the mountain, how does it make him feel?
5. Why does Leo ask Harrison to jog down the trail with him?
6. Do you think it is a good idea for Joey to hike Mount Baldy with Desiree?

Mood Meter

How does the general mood change from Chapter 25 to 26? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood in Chapter 25 and mark an O to show the mood in Chapter 26. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Word Play

Look at how the word **exertion** is used on page 139.

*Sweat glistened on her neck, and her cheeks were red from **exertion**.*

See if you can guess what exertion means from the clues in the sentence. Which definition makes the most sense?

- a. being in the sun too long
- b. a feeling of embarrassment
- c. physical effort
- d. an overwhelming feeling of happiness

Look up the word and see if you were right. Then, write about a situation that might require exertion.

Words of Wisdom

Joey has some important conversations in these two chapters, with Leo, Xander, Desiree, and even himself. Pick one of the following quotes from these chapters that you find interesting or that you connect with the most.

Leo: “Nobody climbs a mountain all at once. They do it one step at a time.”

Desiree: “I’m not waiting for you. I’m hiking with you.”

Joey: My belly stuck out over my shorts. My legs weren’t lean like Harrison’s. I was slower than everyone here by a lot. But what if none of that mattered?

Desiree: “It feels good to say all that out loud.”

Joey: But I knew that when Nonno died, nothing anybody said made it better. It wasn’t like that. I just had to get through it. So did she.

Now, with a partner, share your thoughts to these questions:

- Why did you choose the quote you did?
- What do you think it means?
- In what ways can you relate to it?

Reading Recap

1. Why is Joey unhappy at the beginning of Chapter 27?
2. Why does Joey feel like he's carrying a mountain on his shoulders?
3. Why is Joey hesitant to tell Leo about hiking Mt. Baldy with Desiree? Why does he eventually decide to tell him?
4. How is Joey like a nematode?
5. How does Leo react when Joey calls him Leo the Great?
6. What realization does Joey make at the end of Chapter 28? How does it make him feel?

Learn Italian

On page 146, Leo uses the word "bellissimo" while imitating Nonna.

*"Now, cucciolo," he said in a falsetto voice, "put your nose in that flower. **Bellissimo!**"*

You might describe something as **bellissimo** [beh-LEE-see-moh] if you thought it was beautiful. With a partner, practice saying the word a few times. Then, see if you can make a list of things that might be described as bellissimo.

When your teacher tells you, form a group with another pair. See if you have any items on your list that are the same as theirs. If you do, cross them out. Repeat this with at least two other pairs of classmates. How many words do you have left on your list?

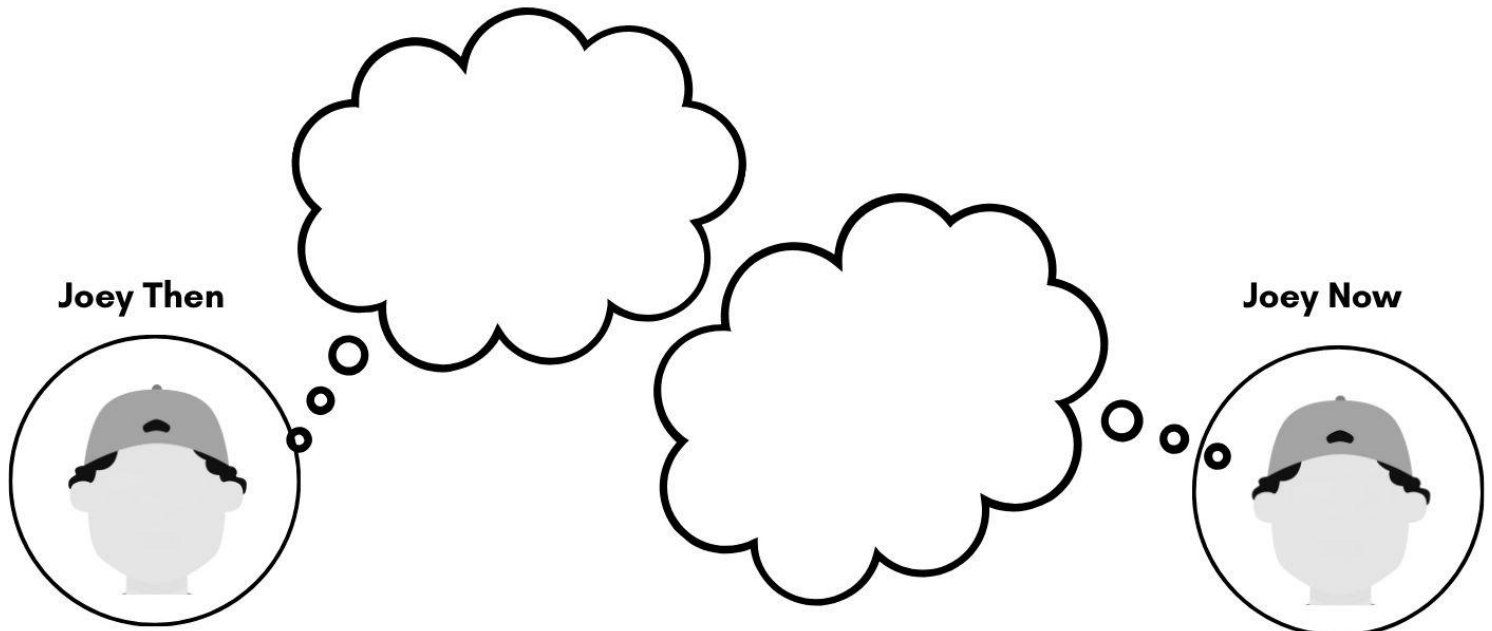
Mountain Metaphor, Part 2

On page 145, Joey says it feels like he's carrying a mountain on his shoulders. This is another way that mountains are being used as a metaphor in this book. Read the two paragraphs on page 145 where Joey describes how it feels like he's carrying a mountain.

Draw a picture that illustrates this metaphor. Then, write 1-2 sentences that explain what you drew.

Joey: Then and Now

Something shifts in Joey's attitude and mindset in these two chapters. Think about how Joey's feelings about hiking and his cousin are different from the beginning of the book. In the thought bubbles below, write a sentence that Joey might have thought about either hiking or his cousin at the start of the book and one that he might think now.



Reading Recap

1. Why does Leo get irritated when Joey tries to help him get his sunglasses on page 156?
2. On page 156, Joey says, "We won't let it [win]." Why is his use of "we" so important?
3. What is Joey's reaction to being called "Giovanni the Good"?
4. How does Joey feel about hiking Mount Baldy?
5. Leo is unusually grumpy as they start the hike despite being cheerful earlier. Why do you think that could be?
6. Predict what happens in the next chapter.

Understanding Altitude

On page 159, Joey and Leo have a conversation about altitude

When I swung open the door of the Jeep a few minutes later, the air was crisp. It hurt to breathe.

Leo was pulling our packs out from the back of the Jeep. "You feel the altitude? We're probably at 6,000 feet above sea level. The air gets thinner."

"It feels like I have a bowling ball on my chest. You really think I can hike like this?"

"I think you better give it a shot," he said sharply. "The hike to Mount Whitney starts at 8,000 feet and ends at 14,000 feet. Thinner air than this. More like two bowling balls."

Altitude is how high you are above sea level. Air pressure gets lower the higher you climb. This means there is less oxygen to breathe. Some people can experience headaches, nausea, and dizziness.

In addition to altitude, what might be other reasons that hiking really tall mountains could be dangerous? Share your ideas as a class.

Foreshadowing

Authors use foreshadowing to hint to readers that something – usually bad – is about to happen. Look at the last paragraph of Chapter 29.

A few minutes later, I was drifting off when I remembered that I'd never read the text from Mom. I yawned. It was probably a reminder to empty the dishwasher or something. My phone was on my dresser. I rolled over. Within minutes, I was asleep, all thoughts of that text from Mom completely gone.

What do you think the author is hinting at? Why do you think it's important?

Write Now

The hikes that Leo and Joey are doing have gotten harder and longer. But Joey actually seems to enjoy them more.

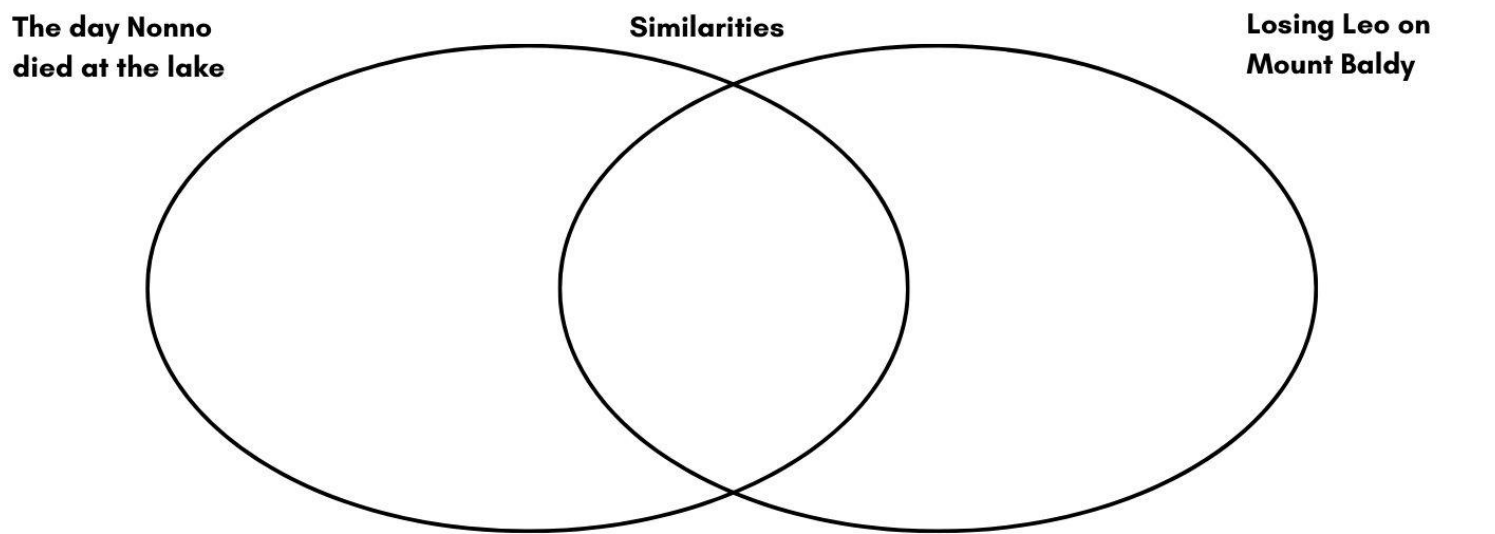
Imagine that you have been invited to train for Mt. Whitney and hike with The Ascenders. Would you accept? Write a paragraph in which you share if you would hike or not and why. Use details from the book to support your answer.

Reading Recap

- 1.How is Leo acting at the summit of Mount Baldy? Why do you think he’s acting that way?
- 2.How does Joey feel when he stands on Mount Baldy and looks out at the world below?
- 3.How do Dante and Maya respond when Joey thanks them for hiking with him?
- 4.How does Joey know something’s wrong when he sees Romero alone on the trail after the summit?
- 5.Joey feels many emotions as he waits for the group to look for Leo. Find a sentence on pages 168-169 that shows how he is feeling.

Making Connections

As Joey sits with Maya and Dante, he is reminded of how he felt the day that Nonno died. In what ways are the two events similar? In what ways are they different? Fill in the diagram below with your ideas.



Building Suspense

Authors create suspense by withholding information from the reader or revealing information slowly in order to create a feeling of uncertainty about what will happen next. For example, look at this sentence on page 168.

No matter how many times I looked up at the far-off bend in the trail, no one appeared.

This sentence reveals the level of anxiety that Joey is feeling about not knowing what happened to Leo. In turn, it helps create the same feeling in the reader.

Find another sentence in Chapter 32 that you think did a good job of creating a feeling of suspense or uncertainty. Write it down and then explain how it made you feel.

Making a Prediction

On page 176, Romero explains that Leo turned around to wait for Joey. What might have happened to him? Write a few sentences in which you explain your prediction.

Reading Recap

- 1. Who actually found Leo?
- 2. Why does Joey think that Leo needs him?
- 3. What does Romero say on page 172 that surprises Joey? What does it make him realize?
- 4. How does Joey describe Nonna on page 175?
- 5. What is Joey mostly worried about at the end of Chapter 33?

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of Chapter 33? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from this chapter that supports your answer.



Better Together

When Joey tells Nonna about hiking with Leo, she says this:

“You two boys are like pasta and vino. You can eat them separately, no? And they are pretty good on their own. But why would you when they are so much better together?”

Vino is “wine” in Italian. What do you think Nonna means when she compares Joey and Leo to pasta and wine? Think of another pairing that is better together. Draw an illustration that shows how these two things combine to make something really great.

Bucket Lists

The term “bucket list” refers to a list of things someone wants to do before they “kick the bucket,” which is another way of saying “before they die.” Most people use it as a way to indicate things they hope to do in their lifetimes. A bucket list might include goals, places someone wants to visit, or adventurous things they want to do.

Think of 4–5 things you might put on your own Bucket List. When your teacher tells you to, share your list with a friend.

Joey and Leo

Joey’s relationship with Leo has changed since the beginning of the book. This chapter highlights some of those changes. Copy the chart below. Then, fill in each column with examples from the story.

	Beginning of the Book	In Chapter 33
How Joey feels about hiking with Leo		
How Joey feels about Leo in general		
How Joey sees himself next to Leo		

Reading Recap

- 1.What does Maya do while she plays croquet with Joey?
- 2.How does Joey respond when Maya calls him Giovanni? Why is that significant?
- 3.What does Joey do that makes Maya mad?
- 4.What does Joey do to make Desiree mad?
- 5.What does Joey realize when he comes back from the bathroom and everyone is getting ready to watch fireworks?

Mood Meter

What is the general mood, or feeling, of Chapter 34? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show your choice. Then, find a passage from this chapter that supports your answer.



Fireworks

Think about how fireworks might be a good metaphor for this chapter. Remember that a metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things. Either draw an illustration or write a paragraph that shows what fireworks represent.

Plot Point

As a story nears the climax, a character often experiences an “all is lost” moment. This is when everything seems to be going wrong for the main character. It’s a turning point, though, because it’s a moment that character understands that they can no longer pretend life will be the same as it was before. Usually, this is an important point in a story because the main character feels like giving up.

Describe how this chapter is the “all is lost” moment for Joey. Then, explain why it is so important that Joey have this moment.

Write Now

Imagine you are Joey. Send a text to both Maya and Desiree in which you apologize for what you said at the table and explain why you did it.

Reading Recap

1. Why is Joey's mom angry at Leo? Why does he become angry with her? Who is right?
2. What is Joey's three-step plan? Do you think it will work?
3. Why do both Noir and Joey think Leo is afraid?
4. What does Noir try to convince Leo? How does he react?
5. Predict who is at the door and what bad news they might have for Joey and Leo.

Word Play

Look at how the word **relapse** is used on page 190.

*"You want to **relapse**?" she asked, her voice raised. "The kind of relapse that means you can't drive or go to school? Keep doing stupid stuff like this, Leo."*

The prefix *re-* means "again" or "back" when added to a base word. The base *lapse* comes from a Latin word that means "to slip."

See if you can guess what **relapse** means from its word parts and the clues in the sentence. Which definition makes the most sense?

- a. suffer a bad fall
- b. return to poor health after a period of good health
- c. move backward again after taking a rest
- d. stumble repeatedly

Look up the word and see if you were right. What are some other examples of how someone could relapse?

Analogies

An **analogy** is a comparison between two unlike things that share something in common. Read these three analogies from this chapter.

She held up her palm like a traffic cop. (page 191)

I felt the force of that fear in his eyes like Thor's mighty hammer in my gut. (page 196)

He was afraid that the M.S. would creep in like a thief and steal his ability to hike—to live, really. (page 196)

Authors often use analogies – called **similes** and **metaphors** – to help the reader better understand what they are trying to describe. For each of the three analogies shown above, do these two things:

1. Identify what two things are being compared.
2. Explain why the author used the analogy. In other words, what does the comparison help the reader better understand?

Fear

On page 200, Joey says this to Leo:

"But fear doesn't make you weak. It makes you prepared."

Do you agree with him? Write down your thoughts and be prepared to share them with the class.

Reading Recap

1. What does Romero tell Leo? How does he react?
2. Why can't Romero and Dante hike with Leo and Joey?
3. What do Joey and Leo decide to do to show Deb that Leo is able to hike?
4. How do Joey and Leo get separated?
5. How does Chapter 38 end? What do you think will happen?

Word Play

Look at how the word **overdramatic** is used on page 205.

*I told myself I was being **overdramatic**, and it would be fine.*

The prefix over- can mean "above" or "too much" when added to a base word. So, if you are being overdramatic, you are showing too much emotion for the situation. An overdramatic person might burst into tears if they can't find their favorite sweater to wear to school.

With a partner, see if you can think of five more words that can be made using the prefix, "over." Write them down. When your teacher tells you, form a group with another pair. Check if you have any words on your lists that are the same. If you do, cross them out. Repeat this with at least two other pairs of classmates. How many words do you have left on your list?

Negligence

Negligence can mean carelessness, or a failure to take the proper steps to prevent something bad from happening. It is also a legal term that means a failure to take reasonable steps to avoid causing harm.

According to Romero, Leo was negligent by going off on his own on Mount Baldy.

Imagine that Deb takes Leo to court. Choose whether you are Deb's lawyer or Leo's lawyer. Create an argument to support your case. If you are Deb's lawyer, how was Leo negligent? If you are Leo's lawyer, how were your actions justified? Have a discussion as a class in which both sides argue their cases. Did anyone change their mind after they heard the other side's arguments?

A Different Perspective

At the end of Chapter 38, a dog causes Leo to lose his balance and fall over the edge.

Rewrite the ending of that chapter from either Leo's or the dog's perspective. What would they be thinking? How would they have felt? What would they have seen? Write it in first person using the pronouns "I" and "me."

Reading Recap

- 1.How does Joey feel at the beginning of Chapter 39?
- 2.Why does Ken tell Joey to blow his whistle?
- 3.Why don't they try to pull Leo out of the canyon?
- 4.On page 217, Joey stares down at Leo and says, "It's me! . . .Giovanni!" Why do you think that's important in this moment?
- 5.How is Leo rescued from the canyon?
- 6.Why does Joey now believe in trail angels?

Mood Meter

How does the general mood, or feeling, change from Chapter 39 to 40? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood at the beginning of Chapter 39, and mark an O to show the mood at the end of Chapter 40. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Choose Your Words

Authors carefully choose the words they use. Words convey the mood, how the characters are feeling, the setting, and the action. Look at the bolded word in each passage below. How would the passage be different if the author had used the word in parentheses instead? In other words, what does the reader better understand because the author used the bolded word?

- My heart **pounded** in my ears. (beat)
- I dug around until I found it and **yanked** it out for him to see. (pulled)
- The **screech** of my whistle echoed in the canyon. (sound)
- He started **herding** people back up the trail. (guiding)
- But there was more I needed to know. I **drilled** my eyes into her. (focused)

Climax

The climax of a story is the moment, usually toward the end, when a character has to confront the one thing that has challenged them the most. It's often a moment of great tension, uncertainty, and even excitement. Reread this passage from page 217 that is part of the climax.

"I need you to be strong, Leo!" I yelled. "Nonno wanted us to hike." I was half-sobbing. People were watching me now. I didn't care. "I want to hike, Leo! I want us to hike Mount Whitney. So I need you to be okay." I collapsed on the trail and leaned over as far as I could to shout into the canyon. "Do you hear me, Leo?"
I wiped my eyes. "It wasn't your fault today. The dog . . . I mean . . . it could have happened to anyone. It's not your fault."
I was truly crying now. I felt Ken's hand on my back.
"It's not your fault," I whispered. But I didn't know if I was talking to just Leo anymore.

Think about the journey that Joey has been on throughout this book. What do you think was his biggest challenge? Now, explain how this passage is important to the climax of the story. How does it show that Joey is confronting his biggest challenge?

Reading Recap

1. How does Joey react when he sees Deb?
2. What new information does Deb share about Leo's ability to hike?
3. As he talks to Xander, what does Joey realize about their friendship?
4. Does Joey regret hiking that morning? Why or why not?
5. Do you think Joey and Leo will keep hiking? Do you think they SHOULD keep hiking?

Mood Meter

How does the general mood, or feeling, change from Chapter 41 to 42? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood at the beginning of Chapter 41 and mark an O to show the mood at the end of Chapter 42. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Learn Italian

Look at how Nonno uses the word "felicità."

"People and food," he'd said passionately. "You bring them together and"—he pinched his thumb and forefinger together—"felicità!"

In English, felicità [feh-lah-CHEE-tah] translates to a feeling of happiness or contentment. What is something that brings you a feeling of felicità? Write a few sentences that describe your thoughts. Then, when your teacher tells you to, share with a partner.

No Risk, No Reward

On page 221, Joey talks about how hiking that morning had been a risk. But one he was willing to take. He hoped Leo would be willing, too. Reread this passage.

Sometimes, risks came with falls. . . . But to avoid falling at all meant he would have to give up.

Are there some risks that are worth taking even if you might fall? How do you know when a risk is worth taking and when it isn't? Jot down some thoughts and be ready to share them with your class.

Falling Action

After the climax, a story starts to wind down as it moves toward the ending, or resolution. This is called the falling action. It's usually when the main character is starting to understand how life has changed, how they have changed, and what that means for them in the future.

Give at least two examples in these chapters that show the falling action. How is Joey wrapping up some of the challenges that he's faced in this book? In what ways do we see that Joey has changed from the beginning of the book? Use specific examples in your answer.

Reading Recap

- 1. Why does Joey tell Leo he calls him “Leo the Great”?
- 2. Why has Joey felt such guilt about Nonno’s death?
- 3. What does Joey find out about Nonna?
- 4. Why has Leo felt guilty about the day Nonno died?
- 5. This chapter is titled “Joey the Good.” Why do you think that is?

Two Sides

Leo and Joey experienced similar feelings of guilt and jealousy after Nonno’s death. But they were for different reasons. Draw the chart below. Then, fill it in so show how these two cousins experienced similar but different feelings.

	Felt guilty because . . .	Felt jealous because . . .
Joey		
Leo		

Be Good

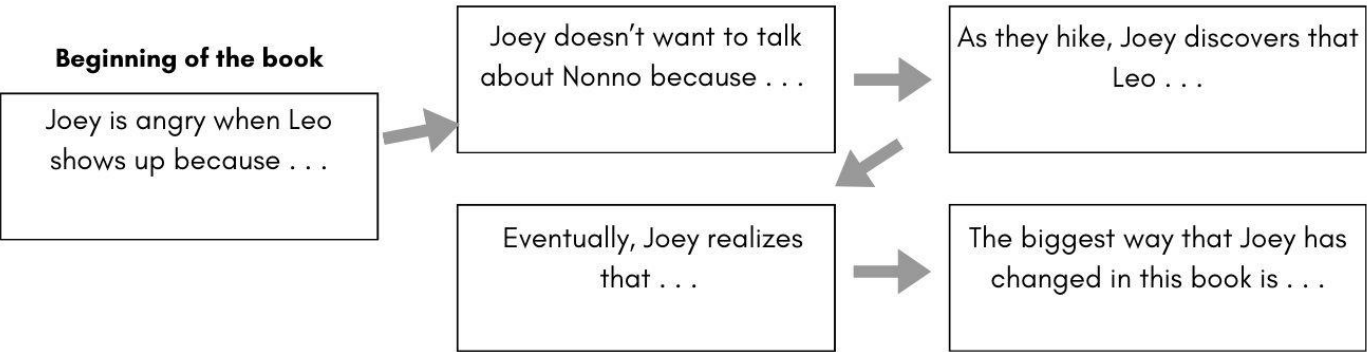
Reread this passage from page 236.

“Correct me if I’m wrong, but I think Thor has a line in that movie where he says, ‘I would rather be a good man than a great king.’” Leo sighed. “Don’t you see, Joey? You don’t need to be great. You’re even better. You’re good.”

Do you agree with Leo? Is good better than great? Why or why not?

Problem Solved

How does this chapter resolve the biggest challenge that Joey has faced in this book? Draw and fill in the chart below to help you answer this question.



Reading Recap

- 1.How does Joey resolve things with Desiree?
- 2.Why is Leo staying with Joey’s family?
- 3.Why did Leo and Joey decide not to hike Mount Whitney?
- 4.Why does Leo tell Joey that Nonno is still with them?
- 5.This chapter is titled, “Giovanni the Second.” Why?

How It Started, How It Ends

Joey has changed since the first chapter of the book. Different aspects of his life have changed, too. Fill in the chart below with examples of how each thing in the first column is different now.

	How it started	How it ends
Hiking		
Joey’s friendship with Xander		
Joey’s friendship with Desiree		
Joey’s relationship with Leo		
Joey’s view of himself		
Joey’s willingness to talk about things		
Joey’s feelings about Nonno		

Mood Meter

Last one! How does the general mood, or feeling, change from the beginning of the book to now? Mark an X on the Mood Meter below to show the mood in Chapter 1 and mark an O to show the mood now. Explain what happens that changes the mood.



Themes

The theme of a book is the message an author wants to share with their readers. There are many different themes in this book. Here are just a few:

Losing someone / grief	Friendships
Communicating feelings	Overcoming challenges
Forgiveness	Importance of family

Choose one of the themes or create your own. Find a page or passage in the book that you think helps capture or communicate the theme. Then, jot down some ideas about what you think the author might be trying to say about it. Finally, share how that theme and message relates to your own life.

One Year Later . . .

Imagine that you get to check in with Joey and Leo one year after the end of the story. What questions would you ask them? What do you hope their lives are like now?

Write Now

Pick one of the questions below. Write a 1-2 paragraph response using specific examples from the story to support your answer.

- 1-Joey’s friendship with Xander changes throughout the book. What are some reasons that a friendship might change or even end?
- 2-Joey says that the words he’s bottled up inside felt like he was carrying around a mountain on his shoulders. But then, after he starts talking about Nonno’s death a little, it felt like “someone had chipped off a chunk of it or was carrying some of it.” How can unspoken words feel like carrying a mountain?
- 3-Joey says some things during the 4th of July picnic that hurt Maya and Desiree, two people he cares about. What might be some reasons that people say things they don’t really mean? What might be a way to prevent that from happening?
- 4-Leo seems to deal with his grief by staying active. Joey deals with the loss of Nonno by shutting down. Do you think there is a “good” way to grieve and a “bad” way to grieve? Why or why not?
- 5-Joey didn’t want to hike at the beginning of the book. But he ends up really enjoying it, and even looking forward to it. Is there a lesson for all of us in Joey’s experience?