



PEACHTREE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



The Candy Mafia

Written by Lavie Tidhar
Illustrated by Daniel Duncan

ABOUT THE BOOK

When notorious candy gangster Eddie de Menthe asks for her help finding a missing teddy bear, Nelle Faulkner is on the case. But as soon as the teddy turns up, Eddie himself goes missing! As a seemingly innocent investigation unravels into something more sinister, Nelle and her friends quickly find themselves swept up in a shady underworld of sweets smugglers, back alley deals, and storefront firebombs. Can they find a way to take the cake? Or will they come to a sticky end?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was Prohibition in the United States? How is this time in history similar to the Prohibition Act in *The Candy Mafia*? How is it different?
2. Nelle and her candy-loving peers didn't agree with the Prohibition Act, and the candy smuggling began. If you were Nelle, what would you do to try and change rules you felt were unfair?
3. What would you name your own candy smuggling operation? Where would you locate your secret office space, and what would it look like?
4. Who gave Eddie de Menthe the teddy bear? Why?
5. What do you think the teddy bear represents?
6. Do you have something that means as much to you as the teddy bear means to Eddie? Explain.
7. The mayor of the town suggests the teddy bear might be a "red herring." Describe the meaning of red herring in your own words based on the context in the book. Then, look up the meaning and discuss other examples.
8. We eventually discover that Tidbeck and Webber are involved in candy smuggling and are the ones who broke into Nelle's office. What clues can you find in previous chapters that suggest these grownups were not telling the truth about their identities?
9. What do we learn about Detective Levene that sets her apart from Tidbeck and Webber? Why do you think she believes Nelle even when the other adults do not?
10. How did you react when Nelle finds the unlabeled chocolate bars in Mrs. de Menthe's kitchen? What does this discovery suggest about Mr. Farnsworth?
11. Why do you think Eddie and Mr. Farnsworth team up in their secret candy making operation?
12. Sweetcakes and Nelle used to be enemies, but they eventually discover they aren't that different from each other. Describe a time you became friends with someone you didn't get along with at first. What did you learn from that experience?
13. Why do you think Sweetcakes and Waffles decide to end their rivalry? Is it important to forgive someone even after disagreeing for so long?
14. Detective Levene tells Nelle that Tidbeck and Webber are not convicted of any crime, saying that "sometimes the bad guys get to walk away." What do you think she means by this? Do you think it's fair that Tidbeck and Webber aren't punished? Why or why not?
15. What do you think Nelle learns from being a detective? Do you think the candy mafia changes her perception of the job and how she investigates in the future? How so?

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