Name_____

PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN A COMPLETE SENTENCE ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF LOOSELEAF PAPER.

YEAR OF THE MEATBALL

CHAPTER 1-5

1. Do you think Joey is handling this move well? Please explain your answer.

2. On pg. 6, Joey meets Bobbi. How do you think he acted in front of her?

3. Why do you think Joey said "Holy Cow" at the end of chapter 5?

CHAPTER 6-10

1. What do you think happened to Bobbi's face?
2. Joey's Nonna is showing signs of Alzheimer's. Do you know anyone with this disease? If so, what symptoms do they have?
3. Joey encounters bullies in his neighborhood. Did you ever have to deal with a bully and if so, how did you handle the situation?

CHAPTER 11-15

1. What interaction did Larry have with the llama?
2. Why do you think Joey didn't want his friends to meet Bobbi?
3. Why did Joey speed away on his bike just when Bobbi was about to tell him what happened to her face?
4. Why do you think Joey couldn't get past #6 on his list of things to do?

CHAPTER 16-20

1. Bobbi wasn't nice to Joey when he offered to help her with her project. Do you think he deserved to be treated that way?
2. What happened to Joey's shirt he was going to wear on the first day of school?
3. Things got rough at the bus stop between Joey and the bully (Flame Creep). How would you have handled that situation?

CHAPTER 21-25

1. When Joey and Bobbi are about to learn how to make meatballs with Nonna, what happens?
2. We finally find out what happened to Bobbi's face. Please explain.
3. What did Bobbi show Joey in the barn?

CHAPTER 26-30

1. Who was elected to name the Marconi jack-o-lantern this year?
2. What was in the shopping bag?
3. Why was the kitten named Oreo?
4. What unexpected present did Joey get from his parents on Christmas morning?

CHAPTER 31-35

1. Bobbi meets Joey outside when his visitors leave. What gift did she give him?
2. In science class, Joey is paired up with a girl named Lauren. When he realizes who she is, how does he treat her?
3. Why did Bobbi change from playing shortstop to being a catcher?

CHAPTER 36-40

1. Joey and Bobbi make the team! Do you think Matt and Larry will be happy for him?
2. Why do you think Joey didn't make room for Bobbi on the bench?
3. How did Bobbi react to Joey's unkindness?

CHAPTER 41-45

1. Joey pretended that he knew about Bobbi's surgery. Do you think his mother believed him?
2. In the cafeteria, who teases Joey again and how does Joey handle the situation?
3. When Joey checks on his grandmother, he finds her crying in her bed. Why?
4. Bobbi had complications with her surgery. What was Joey willing to do?

CHAPTER 46-50

1. Joey brings a cup of coffee to his mom in their yard. What is he starting to realize about how he's been treating her since the move?
2. Any idea what Joey is asking Nicole to make that involves glitter?
3. Joey's dad drives him to visit Bobbi in the hospital. What happens as Joey is getting out of the car?

CHAPTER 51-55

1. After Larry told Joey to lose the championship game on purpose, what did Joey do?
2. What was a big reason Bobbi's doctor allowed her to play in the championship game?
3. While there was a break to rake the field, Joey finds Bobbi crying in the dugout. Why was she upset?

CHAPTER 56-60

1. The Bronx Rollers are about to lose the game with one out to go. What happens when Mary is up and hits the ball over second base?
2. Who was the person who won the game for the Bronx Rollers and why was everyone surprised?
3. After Joey told Luke how much he hurt Bobbi when he called her a name during the game, what was Luke's unusual way of apologizing to her?

CHAPTER 60-63

1. Why do you think Joey didn't notice the improvement in Bobbi's scarred face?
2. On the bus heading to Manhattan, at first, Joey doesn't want to watch the sad movie. But he changes his mind and decides to enjoy the movie and the ride, "bumps and all." Could this sentence mean something more than just the bumpy bus ride?

BEFORE YOU STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND READ THIS BOOK…

You will soon discover that Joey, the main character of YEAR OF THE MEATBALL, has some quirky relatives and friends.

Think of a member of your own family who is a bit unusual. Maybe they dress in a weird way, have odd habits or rituals (like touching their nose twice before they start eating).

Share a little about that person and what makes them stand apart from the rest of your family.

Chapters 1-5

1. Do you think Joey is handling this move in the right way? If not, what would you have done differently?

2. On pg. 6, Joey encounters Bobbi. Do you think he should have stopped and talked with her instead of scurrying away?

3. Why do you think Joey said "Holy cow" at the end of chapter 5?

Chapters 6-10

1. What do you think happened to Bobbi's face?
2. Joey's Nonna is showing signs of alzheimer's. Do you know anyone who has that condition? If so, what symptoms did they have?
3. Did you ever come close to a llama? Do you think Joey is actually enjoying grooming them? If so, how do you know that?
4. Joey encountered some neighborhood bullies. Did you ever have to deal with a bully and if so, how did you handle the situation?

Chapters 11-15

1. Larry and Matt each give a suggestion about what Joey should do regarding this move. What are they?
2. What kind of interaction did Larry have with the llama?
3. Why do you think Joey didn't want his friends to meet Bobbi?
4. Why did Bobbi's mom ask if Joey could care for the llamas for a few days?
5. Why did Joey leave Bobbi just as she was about to tell him what happened to her face?
6. Joey writes a list of things he will do. Why do you think he said he couldn't get past #6?
7. Did your mom or dad ever have to remind you to be kind? If so, explain.

Chapters 16-20

1. Bobbi did not treat Joey well when he came to her room. Do you think he deserved the cold shoulder treatment from her or not?
2. Bobbi eventually allowed Joey to stay and help her with her summer assignment. Did you notice a subtle change in their relationship at this point? Please explain.
3. What happened to Joey's favorite shirt that he was wearing on the first day of school?
   Would you have reacted the same way if this happened to you?
4. Things got out of hand at the bus stop between Joey and the bully (Flame Creep). What would you have done in that same situation?
5. Joey is horrified when he bites into one of Nonna's meatballs. Explain why.
6. Mr. Galiano is Joey's social studies teacher. What is one thing they have in common that Joey was surprised about?
7. Why did Joey think he was bleeding on the lunch line?
8. What's the deal Bobbi makes with Joey regarding their school's baseball team?

Chapters 21-25

1. When Joey and Bobbi are about to learn how to make meatballs from Nonna, what happens?
2. We finally find out what happened to Bobbi's face. Please explain.
3. What's Joey's Aunt Maria like?
4. Joey finds out that he could be playing off with his old baseball team. What does the winning team get to do?
5. What did Bobbi show Joey in the barn?
6. Why did Bobbi suddenly become upset in the barn?
7. A girl keeps on staring at Bobbi at the pizzeria. Who was she?

Chapters 26-30

1. Who was picked to name the jack-o-lantern this Halloween?
2. What was in the shopping bad that Joey's mom brings out?
3. Why was the kitten named Oreo?
4. What did Joey and Bobbi do after visiting the tree farm and did Joey like this activity?
5. What unexpected awesome present did Joey get from his parents on Christmas day?

Chapters 31-35

1. Bobbi meets Joey outside when his family leaves. What gift did she give him? Did he like it?
2. In science class, Joey is paired up with a pretty girl named Lauren. What does he discover about her and how does he treat her afterwards?
3. What made Joey change his mind about playing baseball with his new team?
4. Bobbi used to play shortstop when she was younger. Why did she change to being a catcher?
5. What is happening to Bobbi and Joey's relationship at this point in the story?
6. What are some things Joey's Nonna does that is worrying him?

Chapters 36-40

1. Joey and Bobbi make the team! Joey's not sure that his friends will be happy over this. Do you think they will be? Please explain why or why not.
2. Why do you think Joey didn't make room for Bobbi on the bench?
3. How does Bobbi react to this situation?

Chapters 41-45

1. Joey's mother told him that Bobbi was having her surgery soon. He pretended that he knew. Do you think she believes him?
2. In the cafeteria, on the day of Bobbi's surgery, who messes with Joey again and how does he handle it?
3. When Joey checks on his grandmother, he finds her crying in her bed. Why?
4. Bobbi had complications during her surgery. What was Joey willing to do?

Chapters 46-50

1. Joey brings out to the pond a cup of coffee for his mother. What is he starting to realize about how he treated her regarding the move?
2. Any idea on what Joey is asking Nicole to make?
3. Joey's dad drives him to the hospital to visit Bobbi. What happens as Joey is getting out of the car?
4. Did Bobbi forgive Joey at the hospital?
5. What were the two gifts Joey brought Bobbi?

Chapters 51-55

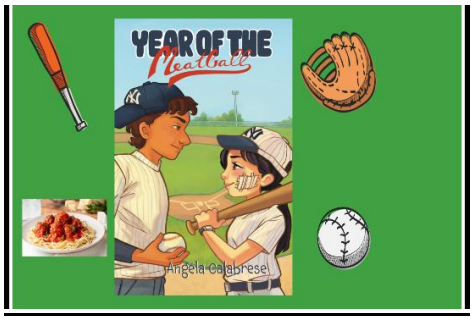
1. Larry told Joey to lose the championship game on purpose! What did Joey do after hearing that?
2. What was a big reason Bobbi's doctor allowed her to play in the championship game?
3. Bobbi and Joey are playing their absolute best until she totally shuts down. Joey isn't sure why. Do you know?
4. While there is a break to rake the field, Joey finds Bobbi in the dugout. Please explain why she is so upset.

Chapters 56-60

1. The Bronx Rollers are about to lose the game with one out to go. What happens when Mary is up and hits the ball over second base?
2. Who won the game for the Bronx Rollers and why was that surprising?
3. Joey needed to do something that he had wanted to do since the big game. What was it and how did he make out?
4. What was Luke's unusual way to apologize to Bobbi?
5. Joey hides behind a plant and watches his father hang up his shelf for his baseball collection. At that moment, what does he suddenly realize?

Chapters 61-64

1. Why do you think Joey didn't notice the improvement in Bobbi's scarred face?
2. Why do you think Joey's coach, Mr. Galiano, was so proud of him?
3. On the bus heading to Manhattan, Joey doesn't want to watch the sad movie that Bobbi's watching. But he changes his mind and decides to enjoy the movie and the ride, "bumps and all." What could the word "ride" also represent in this statement?



NAME_____

YOU GAVE ME THE ANSWERS? COOL!
YEAR OF THE MEATBALL

This fun activity will challenge you to think beyond the traditional question/answer worksheet format.

It might take some trial and error, but you'll get the hang of it. A typical way to determine whether you understand a novel is by answering questions. Not this time. YOU will be given the answers! Your task is to figure out the question. It's not as easy as it sounds!

Here are some practice ones to warm up with. Write down question words that you can refer to (what, where, when, why, who, why, how).

Here are three completed ones. The questions in red are what you need to figure out for the rest of the answers.

- Question: What color is the sky?
- Answer: The sky is blue.
- Question: How many states are there?
- Answer: There are 50 states.
- Question: Who was the first president of the United States?

- Answer: George Washington.

*****

1. Question:

Ans. Because Joey didn't want to move away from the Bronx.

2. Question:

Ans. Nonna was acting weird lately.

3. Question:

Ans. Because Joey's mom thought the Bronx was too crowded.

4. Question:

Ans. He was a landscaper.

5. Question:

Ans. Joey's parents gave Joey and Nicole a black kitten.

6. Question:

Ans. Because he needed to play baseball even if it wasn't with his Bronx team.

7. Question:

Ans. She was burned in a fire.

8. Question:

Ans. The Millbrook Fireballs

9. Question:

Ans. Aunt Maria

10. Question:

Ans. Playing baseball, of course!

NAME_____

YEAR OF THE MEATBALL

PROVE IT!!!!

Detectives are always searching for clues to solve their case.

In books, sometimes information isn't just stated. Instead, certain words help you "sniff out" what's really happening.

Write the sentence or sentences (text evidence) that proves each statement. The first one is done for you:

Chapter 1

1. Joey is angry that he's moving from the Bronx.

- Furious fingers text Matt and Larry. My life is about to strike out.
- I would have bet my mint condition Yogi Berra baseball card that my parents wouldn't go through with this stupid move.
- School is exactly twenty-five days away and who will I eat with?

2. It's summer when this story begins.

Chapter 2

1. Joey was a stellar student in the Bronx.

2. Joey is angry at his mom about moving.

Chapter 3

1. Joey went to Catholic school in the Bronx.

2. Joey is NOT trying to adjust to his new surroundings.

Chapter 4

1. Joey's new house is much larger than the one in the Bronx.

Chapter 6

1. Joey doesn't think Bobbi looks like "baseball material."

Chapter 8

1. Nonna has been acting weird.

Chapter 9

1. Joey might actually be having a good time grooming the llamas.

Chapter 10

1. Joey is proud of his dad even though they sometimes butt heads.

Chapter 11

1. Joey planned a full day of activities when his friends were visiting.

Chapter 14

1. Joey is trying not to get close to Bobbi.

Chapter 15

1. Joey's mother is losing her patience with him.

Chapter 17

1. Joey is very nervous on the first day of school.

Chapter 18

1. Nonna's meatballs are no longer edible.

Chapter 19

1. Joey feels comfortable being around Bobbi.

Chapter 21

1. Joey seems more upbeat at this point.

Chapter 22

1. Bobbi is thoughtful and caring.

Chapter 25

1. Joey talks about food a lot.

Chapter 27

1. Joey's parents are finding special ways of making their kids happy.

Chapter 29

1. Joey seems to be adjusting a little better to his new environment.

Chapter 31

1. Joey realizes that Bobbi is a caring, special friend.

Chapter 32

1. Joey is furious at Lauren.

Chapter 34

1. There is a reason why Bobbi chose to be a catcher and not play short stop.

Chapter 36

1. Joey is extremely anxious that he didn't make the team.

Chapter 39

1. Joey is embarrassed and upset with his friends.

Chapter 41

1. Joey's mom thinks Joey is lying about knowing about Bobbi's upcoming surgery.

Chapter 43

1. Nonna doesn't do the fun things she used to do.

Chapter 44

1. Mom is proud of Joey for offering to donate his blood to Bobbi.

Chapter 46

1. Joey realizes that he hasn't been very nice to his mother.

Chapter 49

1. Dad actually made Joey feel less lousy over what he did to Bobbi.

Chapter 50

1. Bobbi forgave Joey for ignoring her at the game.

Chapter 51

1. Joey has had it with his Bronx friends' unreasonable behavior.

Chapter 52

1. Joey's mom is very excited about their championship game.

Chapter 54

1. During the big game, Bobbi says she's just tired from playing but Joey knows that it's more than that.

Chapter 55

1. Joey cares deeply for Bobbi.

Chapter 57

1. Joey feels like his friends, Matt and Larry, will dump him as a friend.

Chapter 58

1. Joey made an impression on Luke in study hall and Luke is feeling remorse at what he did to Bobbi.

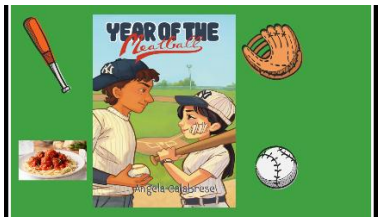
Chapter 60

1. Joey knows his dad cares about him a lot.

Chapter 61

1. Coach has respect for his team.

Chapter 64

1. Joey is realizing that he needs to learn how to cope with changes in his life.

2. Joey's friends in the Bronx still want to be friends with him.