

# QUESTIONS FOR A LITTLE PIECE OF GROUND

## Chapter 1

- What do you think about the list Karim makes? What does the list tell us about Karim's personality?
- What is Karim's relationship with Jamal like in the first chapter? What do they argue about?
- Why does Karim feel "a miserable sense of imprisonment?"

## Chapter 2

- What is the curfew? Who imposes it?
- How does the curfew affect the daily life of Karim and his family?

## Chapter 3

- Who does Karim meet when he is playing ball in the street?
- Can you guess why the boy might show envy on his face when Karim talks about his father?

## Chapter 4

- What is a refugee camp?
- How is Hopper's camp different from the neighborhood where Karim and his family live?
- In what ways are the refugees different from Karim's family? In what ways are they the same?
- Who are the Israeli settlers? What do the settlements look like?
- Why does Karim's mother say "You can't help feeling sorry for them, when you know what they've been through, but still, not the sort of people you want your kids to mix with, exactly...."?
- What have the people in the refugee camps "been through"?
- Why does Karim's mother not want Karim to mix with "those kids"?

## Chapter 5

- Why is Karim's father Hasan angry? What is hurting his business?
- What has happened to Karim's school?
- Both Karim and Jamal have secrets and know each other's secrets. What are they?

## Chapter 6

- On the road to his grandmother's village, Karim sees Hopper from the car window. What is Hopper doing? Why is Karim embarrassed to see him?
- What is a checkpoint? What is the effect of the checkpoints on Palestinian life?
- What do the soldiers do to Karim's father at the checkpoint?
- What is the impact on Karim of his father's humiliation?
- Why does the soldier call the line of Palestinians "terrorists"?

## Chapter 7

- Farah acts differently than in the past when she gets to the village. She doesn't run to hug her grandmother. She wets her bed the first night in the village? Why do you think she is acting this way?
- What is an Israeli settlement? What does the settlement look like?
- The settlements are undermining the way of life by taking land that families have owned and lived on for generations. How has the settlement changed the lives of the Palestinians who live in the village?
- What did the Palestinians in the village do to try to prevent the settlement from being built?

## Chapter 8

- Karim is embarrassed that he ran away when the settlers started shooting. Why is he embarrassed by this?
- The news of the suicide bombing in Jerusalem brings out a range of reactions from Karim's family. How does Karim react? How does Abu Feisal react? How do Lamia and Hassan react?
- What does Abu Feisal say to Karim about the suicide bombing?
- Is Abu Feisal a character that we are supposed to admire in the book, or feel sorry for? Explain your answer.

### **Chapter 9**

- Hopper says that Karim is "lucky" to have a village. What happened to Hopper's family's village?
- What secret is Karim keeping from Joni? Why does Joni get angry at Karim?
- How are Karim and Hopper's home lives different from each other? In what ways are they similar?

### **Chapter 10**

- Why does the video game Lineman mean so much to Karim? "It had been a refuge for him when the curfew was down, a release when things got too bad, a place he could go to in his mind when his body was held captive."
- What do you do when you want to take your mind off daily life for a while?

### **Chapter 11**

- Why do you think Hopper is the only one who isn't running away from the bomb?
- Why do you think it is important to Karim what Hopper thinks about him?

### **Chapter 12**

- What is the big hoax that Hopper plays on the soldiers?
- How does this hoax disrupt the soldiers and what they are doing?
- What do you think would happen to Hopper if he were caught?
- How was Joni and Hopper's reaction to each other different than what Karim had feared?
- What made it an "amazing day" for Karim?

### **Chapter 13**

- Why are the boys clearing this "little piece of ground?" What do you think it means to them?
- What happened to Hopper's brother Salim? What is Salim's personality like? How does Hopper describe him?

### **Chapter 14**

- How does Hopper act differently around his grandfather?
- What happened to Hopper's father?
- Hopper has had a lot of losses in his life. How do you think these have affected him and the actions he takes, like planting the fake bomb?
- Keys are very significant in Palestinian culture. What is the key in Hopper's house? What is it a key to?

### **Chapter 15**

- What frightening event takes place in Karim's school?
- Why does Karim's teacher pick on him?
- Who is Wasim? What has happened to his family?

### **Chapter 16**

- Why do you think the cats become important to the boys?
- What do the boys do with the stones and the paint?
- Why do you think Karim feels like "they'd done something here, on this little piece of ground? They'd made it truly theirs."

### **Chapter 17**

- How does Karim defend his sister Farah from the other kids who are teasing her?
- How does his view of Farah change during this incident?

### **Chapter 18**

- What do Jamal and his friends do in this chapter?
- Why do the boys throw stones at the Israeli tanks?
- Why does Violette give Jamal a lot of attention?

### **Chapter 19**

- How does Karim feel at first about the new boys who come to Hopper's ground?
- By the end of the chapter, Karim feels very proud. About what? Explain.

### **Chapter 20**

- What is the trick that Hopper plays on the tanks?
- What draws the tanks to Hopper's Ground?

### **Chapter 21**

- Where does Karim hide from the soldiers?
- What will likely happen if he is found?

### **Chapter 22**

- Why do you think Karim feels that "just by being out," that he is resisting the Israelis?

### **Chapter 23**

- How does Karim feel when he realizes that the soldiers are playing with his ball on his soccer pitch?
- Why does Karim feel like Aziza the cat is a "traitor"?
- Karim realizes that there's one thing he needs to add to his list. What is it? Why is it "the most important thing"?
- What do you think Karim imagines an "ordinary life" would be like?

### **Chapter 24**

- What happens to Karim when he makes a run for it?
- Who rescues Karim?

### **Chapter 25**

- How do you think Jamal and Karim's relationship will change after these events?
- Why does the old man in the hospital call Karim's injury "honorable wounds"?
- How has the curfew affected the hospital's supplies?

### **Chapter 26**

- What is the wonderful smell of home that Karim notices?
- Karim thinks that he is a different person from the boy who left home a few days ago. What do you think he means by this?
- Why is Joni's family leaving Palestine?

### **Chapter 27**

- What happened to Ginger the cat?
- What great news do they learn from the tv?

### **Chapter 28**

- Why does Karim feel that Joni's family is running away?
- What happened to Salim in prison?
- What are the sorrows that "accumulate in Karim's heart"?
- Do you think this story has a happy ending? A sad ending? Some of both? Explain.