

**Teacher-Parent Guide**  
**Chapters 16-30**

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## Chapter 16: Colorado

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving South Dakota, the truck driver heads south on Interstate 25, passing Fort Collins, Boulder, and Denve, which are cities in Colorado.
- b. The United States Olympic & Paralympic Training Center is in Colorado Springs.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Colorado? Which eight states border it?
  - a. North: Wyoming and Nebraska
  - b. Northeast: Nebraska
  - c. East: Kansas
  - d. Southeast: Oklahoma
  - e. South: New Mexico
  - f. West: Utah
  - g. Southwest: Arizona meets Colorado at the Four Corners
2. The Four Corners Monument is the only spot in the US shared by four states. You can stand in one spot but be in four states at the same time. Colorado is one of those states. Can you name the other three? (Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico)
3. What's the name of the city in Colorado nicknamed "Mile High City"? (Denver. It's also the state capital and most populated and visited city in the state. The 13<sup>th</sup> step of the capital building is exactly one mile high above sea level.)
4. What does Colorado have that no other state has? (Fifty-eight mountain peaks that are taller than 14,000 feet.)

5. The state claims it invented this food that millions of people eat every day. What do you think it is? (In 1935, the owner of Denver’s Humpty Dumpty Drive-In—Louis Ballast—was awarded the trademark for the cheeseburger.)
6. There are 960 species of wildlife that live in Colorado. Can you name any of these wild animals? One was mentioned in Chapter 1 of Mo’s eBook. (Some include bighorn sheep, elk, bison, mountain lions, moose, black bears, foxes, gazelles – also called pronghorns – coyotes, beavers, deer, horses, wolves, and prairie dogs.)
7. Eastern Colorado is part of the Great Plains. What does the land look like? (The Eastern/Great Plains covers one-third to half of the state. The land is mostly flat, covered in prairie grasses and dotted with small towns along with wide open spaces, ranches, and some public lands.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Do you know someone with a physical disability? Maybe they use a wheelchair or only have one arm or leg.
2. How hard do you think it would be for them to perform daily tasks like getting dressed in the morning? Here’s one way to find out: Try using one arm to wash your face or put on a shirt or pair of pants.
3. Never assume that a disabled person wants or needs your help. Always ask, “Is there anything I can do to help?” Then respect their decision.

### Chapter 17: California

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Sea lions live near oceans.
- b. Mo and Finchy are visiting the Farallon Islands. (These rocky islands or Devil’s Teeth are about 30 miles west of San Francisco or the Golden Gate Bridge, which is in California.)
- c. Names of ships in the 1800s that crashed in the area include the Sea Witch, Lawrence, Georgianna, and Helen Hensley.

### Questions for Kids

1. What states, ocean, and country border California?
  - a. North: Oregon

- b. Southeast: Arizona
  - c. East/Northeast: Nevada
  - d. West: Pacific Ocean
  - e. South: California shares a border with Baja California, which is a state in northwestern Mexico. It's one of two states that are separated from the rest of Mexico by the Gulf of California.
2. California is the third largest state when you consider area or land. What are the first and second states? (Alaska followed by Texas.)
  3. What country has almost the same population as California? (Canada)
  4. This state has over 100,000 earthquakes a year. What is an earthquake? (When the ground suddenly shakes or rolls. Its caused by the movement of the Earth's crust, the outermost layer. Earthquakes happen millions of times a year, but most are so small that people don't feel them.)
  5. California borders the Pacific ocean. What's the name of the ocean on the east side of the country? (Atlantic)
  6. Which is larger—the Pacific or Atlantic ocean? (The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean on Earth, covering more than 30% of the planet's surface and contains over half of the world's water.)
  7. California has three of the most populated cities in the US. Can you name them? (Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Jose.)
  8. What is the name of the national park in California that has the tallest trees in the world? (Redwood National Park. Some of its trees, including the coastal redwood, can grow to over 300 feet tall. That's roughly 30 single story houses on top of each other!)
  9. Do you like eating guacamole? This city in California grows more than half (60%) of the avocados in the country. What is its name? (San Diego)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Were you ever afraid of someone, such as another kid at school?
2. Why were you afraid? Did you hear ugly rumors about this person, rely on gossip, or was there another reason? Sometimes, your fears may not be based on truth.

3. Share your feelings with your parents, teacher or school counselor, especially if this person is bullying you or other kids at school. They can help you not be afraid of another student. You should never be afraid to go to school.

## Chapter 18: Hawaii

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy took a cruise ship to this state.
- b. Haleakala Crater is a dormant volcano and also one of the world's largest volcanic craters located on an island named Maui.
- c. The place Mo and Finchy visit is one of eight major islands that are part of this state.
- d. This state grows pineapples and also coffee beans.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Hawaii? (This group of volcanic islands is in the central Pacific Ocean. The islands lie 2,397 miles from San Francisco, California, to the east.)
2. Hawaii and another state are not part of the Lower 48 adjoining US states. What's the other state? (Alaska)
3. Hawaii was the first state to have two official languages. English is one of the languages. What's the second language? (Hawaiian, which contains 12 letters and one mark: A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U, W. The okina (‘) is used between words like oh-oh.)
4. Hawaii is the only US state completely made up of islands. But people only live on seven of its 132 islands . Can you name just one? (Hawaii, also known as the Big Island, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, Kauai, and Niihau.)
5. What Olympic sport originated in Polynesia, a region that includes the islands of Hawaii, Tahiti, and Samoa? (Surfing)
6. What US president was born here? (President Barack Obama. He is the only US president born outside the continental US.)
7. Only two US states grow coffee. Hawaii is one of the states. What's the other? (California)
8. What US state is closest to Hawaii? (California, which is about 2,400 miles away.)

## Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, a butterfly named Diana describes a volcanic eruption. Besides fire, rocks, and gas, she claims that volcanoes also shoot out toys, chairs, couches, and computers. Do you believe her?
2. Did you ever exaggerate when telling a story to make it sound better or funnier to family or friends? Is that lying?
3. Some people believe exaggerating is not lying, just stretching the truth. Others say exaggerating is lying because it misleads people and also benefits the storyteller. What do you think?

## Chapter 19: Nebraska

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy traveled for several days on top of the delivery truck along Interstate 80 and Highway 6.
- b. Lincoln and Waverly are cities in Nebraska.
- c. Ashland is also a city in the state.
- d. Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum is in Nebraska.

## Questions for Kids

1. What six states border Nebraska?
  - a. North: South Dakota
  - b. East: Iowa
  - c. Southeast: Missouri, across the Missouri River
  - d. South: Kansas
  - e. Southwest: Colorado
  - f. West: Wyoming
2. What is Nebraska's main crop? Hint: People usually put butter and salt on it. (Corn)
3. What region of the country is Nebraska in? (Great Plains)
  - a. Great Plains
  - b. Great Lakes
  - c. Rocky Mountains

4. Nebraska is one of 12 states in the Midwest. Can you name one other state that's also in the Midwest? (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.)
5. Nebraska is one of nine US states that has a panhandle (a section of the state that's shaped like a frying pan). Can you name one other state? (Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Oklahoma, Texas, Connecticut and West Virginia, which has a northern and eastern panhandle.)
6. One of Nebraska's native mammals is the second fastest land animal after cheetahs. What is its name? (Pronghorns)
  - a. Jackrabbits
  - b. Pronghorns
  - c. Antelopes

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Finchy pretended to know how to fly an airplane. But he didn't. Did you ever pretend to know something when you didn't?
2. Why did you pretend? What happened? Did it backfire?
3. Is it OK to admit you don't know the answer or how something works? Do you think your friends will make fun of you, that you're not smart?

### Chapter 20-Ohio

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Nebraska, Mo and Finchy traveled for almost 13 hours crossing four state borders: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and also Ohio, which is not mentioned.
- b. They traveled almost in a straight line on Interstate 80 east.
- c. They drove past cities named Des Moines and Chicago.
- d. They arrive in Cleveland, a city in Ohio.

### Questions for Kids

1. What five states border Ohio?
  - a. North: Michigan and Lake Erie
  - b. East: Pennsylvania
  - c. Southeast: West Virginia

- d. South: Kentucky
  - e. West: Indiana
- 
2. The state produces roughly five million tons of this natural resource beneath Lake Erie. Can you guess which one it is? Hint: People put it on streets, sidewalks and driveways, making them safer to drive or walk on snow and ice. (Rock salt)
    - a. Coal
    - b. Natural Gas
    - c. Rock salt called halite
  3. This famous astronaut was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He was the first person to walk on the moon. What was his name? (Neil Armstrong)
  4. At least 378 famous musicians are featured in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which is also a museum. Where is it? What city in Ohio? Hint: The nation's first rock concert was held in this same city in 1952. (Cleveland)
  5. Two high school students in Cleveland created a comic book superhero in the 1930s. Can you guess this superhero's name? (Superman)
  6. The capital city of Ohio shares the same last name as the famous explorer who discovered America. What is their name? (Columbus)
  7. The state's No. 1 national park features six beautiful waterfalls. What is the park's name? (Cuyahoga Valley National Park)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Finchy is surprised to learn that Mo can play the piano and sing. Is there a musical instrument you would like to learn? Or are you already learning to play piano, guitar or another instrument?
2. How often do you practice? Keep in mind that many famous musicians started when they were young, perhaps at your age. By the time they were an adult, they already had years of practice or experience.
3. Think you could be as good as Mo? That mostly depends on how much you are willing to practice!

### Chapter 21: Indiana

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy traveled along Interstate 71 South.
- b. They pass a highway sign for Columbus, a city in Ohio.
- c. They entered a state directly west of Ohio.
- d. More highway signs said Richmond, Lawrence, and Greenwood., which are cities in Indiana.
- e. They stopped at White River State Park, which is in Indiana.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Indiana? What states and Great Lake surround it?
  - a. North: Michigan and Lake Michigan
  - b. South: Kentucky
  - c. West: Illinois
  - d. East: Ohio
2. A city in this state receives more than 500,000 letters from children every year around Christmas time. Can you guess the city's name? (Santa Claus)
3. What are the names of the other three other states that begin with the letter "I"? (Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho)
4. What famous car race is held in this state every year? It's among the largest single-day sporting events. Where is it held? (The Indy 500 held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.)
5. This state has the largest children's museum in the world. What is the museum's name? (The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. It features a drum that once belonged to a local boy named Edward Black who may have been the youngest Civil War soldier. He was just eight-years-old when he enlisted as a drummer boy in July 1861.)
6. Why are people from Indiana called Hoosiers? A contractor named Hoosier worked on the Louisville Portland Canal in Kentucky. (Where is this state?) But he preferred to hire laborers from Indiana because he thought they were more reliable and hardworking. They were called Hoosier's men. Eventually, everyone from Indiana were called Hoosiers.)
7. Before Indiana became a state in 1816, it was part of the Northwest Territory, which was created by Congress in 1787. Besides Indiana, the Northwest Territory included four other current states. Can you name one of them? (Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota.)



## Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy meet a Native American Spirit named Jay. He talked about how people should do something nice for someone each day. What have you done today?
2. Jay also talked about respecting the land. How do you show respect for the land? (Pick up trash, water plants, feed animals, plant seeds...)
3. Sharing is also important. Do you share your toys, for example, with your brother or sister? Do you donate toys, clothing, or other things to kids who need them?

## Chapter 22-Illinois

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Indiana, Mo and Finchy traveled for three hours along Interstate 65 North.
- b. Peoria, Naperville, and Chicago are cities in Illinois.
- c. Mo and Finchy visited the Skydeck or observation deck (103rd floor) of the Willis Tower in Chicago, formerly known as the Sears Tower. It was the first modern skyscraper. They could see the nearby states of Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

## Questions for Kids

1. What states does Illinois share a border with:
  - a. East: (Indiana, Kentucky and Lake Michigan)
  - b. West: (Missouri and Iowa)
  - c. North: (Wisconsin)
  - d. South: (Kentucky and Missouri)
2. Illinois was the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. What is the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment? (It abolished slavery in the US on February 1, 1865)
3. The first McDonald's restaurant was built in Des Plaines, which is a suburb of what city? (Chicago.) What is a suburb? (An area outside big cities and towns where people live.)
4. Springfield is the capital of Illinois. What two US presidents spent time in this city? (It was the home of Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> US president, and the place where President Barack Obama (44<sup>th</sup> US president) spent his early career in politics.

5. Illinois has had three capital cities. Besides the current capital city, Springfield, what were the other two? (The first capital city was Kaskaskia in 1818 and then Vandalia in 1820.)
6. There are many small communities or towns with strange or funny names in Illinois. Goofy Ridge is the name of one community. Can you name others? (Sandwich, Normal, Bone Gap, Ransom, and Perks.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy attend a meeting with animals who live in the community. Their goal is to beautify the local park. What area in your neighborhood would you like to improve?
2. Consider your school. Could your playground be more attractive? Kids could decorate outdoor planters with lively colors or designs. What about the main office? Consider a bulletin board featuring student art.
3. If there is a community park that needs attention, ask other kids to help. Pick up litter. Consider cleaning benches or picnic tables. Sometimes, a good cleaning is all that's needed to improve a park's appearance.

## Chapter 23: Kansas

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

1. After leaving Illinois, Mo and Finchy rode for at least 10 hours along Interstate 55 South.
2. They were visiting a space museum in Hutchinson, which is a city in Kansas.
3. Kansas City was three hours away from the museum.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Kansas? What states surround it?
  - a. North: Nebraska
  - b. South: Oklahoma
  - c. East: Missouri
  - d. West: Colorado
2. In 2024, Kansas had 40 tornadoes. What are tornadoes? (They're violent storms. Rotating columns of air reach all the way from a storm cloud to the ground.)

3. Kansas is one state in Tornado Alley, a region in the central part of this country where tornadoes are most frequent. Besides Kansas, can you name another state in Tornado Alley? (Northern Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and parts of Louisiana, Iowa, Nebraska and eastern Colorado.)
4. About two-thirds of meteorites in this country are found in Kansas and five other states: California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico. What is a meteorite? (Space rocks that fall to Earth.) But the largest meteorite ever found in this country landed in a different state. It was discovered in 1902, made of iron, and weighed 15.5 tons. Can you guess the state? Hints: It borders the Pacific Ocean and claims at least 250 ghost towns. (Oregon)
5. Lebanon, Kansas is considered to be the geographic center of the Lower 48 US states. What does that mean? (It's located in the middle of the Lower 48 states.)
6. Kansas ranks among the top five windiest states in the country. Can you name the other four windiest states? (The windiest weather tends to occur in the Plains. The other states are Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Iowa.)
7. Kansas is the country's second top producer of wheat. In one typical year, Kansas produces enough wheat to bake 36 billion loaves of bread. What state produces the most wheat? Hint: Its known for its Badlands, which is part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. (North Dakota).
8. Why is wheat so important? (It's an essential ingredient in many foods we eat. (Cereal, pasta, pancakes, crackers, cakes, cookies, and pizza dough, to name a few.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo becomes jealous of his new space friends because of all the things they can do that he can't. Did you ever feel jealous of someone at school because they could do things you couldn't?
2. Did you ever think that some kids may be jealous of you? You could be a better soccer player or score higher on math tests, for example. Do you know anyone who's good at everything?
3. Everyone has a special talent. Can you identify your unique skills? Being jealous of other kids is unhealthy and makes you feel bad. Instead, focus on all the things you do well or are learning.

### Chapter 24: Oklahoma

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

1. The Ouachita National Forest is in Oklahoma.
2. After leaving Kansas, Mo and Finchy rode on top of the delivery truck for almost a day, traveling mostly along Interstate 35 South.
3. Tulsa and Broken Arrow are cities in Oklahoma.
4. Talihina is a small village in Oklahoma.

### Questions for Kids

1. Oklahoma borders six states. Can you name at least two of them?
  - a. West: Colorado and New Mexico
  - b. North: Kansas
  - c. South: Texas
  - d. East: Arkansas and Missouri
2. Oklahoma is one of nine states that collectively have 10 panhandles. West Virginia has two panhandles. What is a panhandle? It's the section of a state that looks like a frying pan. Where is the panhandle in Oklahoma? (Northwestern part of the state).
3. Oklahoma's climate is typical of states in the region (southern Great Plains). It has long, hot summers and cool, short winters with rain falling mostly during the warm months. How does the climate compare to the weather in your state?
4. Which state is the wettest in the country? Hint: It's the only US state in the tropics. (Hawaii)
5. What city in this state is nicknamed OKC? Hint: It's the state capital and the biggest city in the state. (Oklahoma City)
6. These mountains in Oklahoma are 525 million years old. They're older than dinosaurs! What is their name? (Wichita Mountains)
7. An ancient city sits in a wildlife refuge in the Wichita mountains . Do you know the city's name? (The Holy City of the Wichitas sits on a 66-acre area that resembles Israel during Biblical times.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. This chapter is about someone cheating in a canoe race. Have you ever cheated in a race, on a school test or at something else? What happened?

2. Why did you cheat? Did you feel pressure to win or get a good grade on a test? Was the task too hard and cheating was the only way you could finish it?
3. How did cheating make you feel? Are you still cheating if you don't get caught? (Yes! Even if no one else knows, you know.)

## Chapter 25: Missouri

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Oklahoma, Mo and Finchy traveled along Interstate 49 North for nearly six hours.
- b. The Pony Express National Museum is in St. Joseph, Missouri.
- c. Missouri's nickname is the "Show-Me State".

### Questions for Kids

1. Missouri is one of only two states that borders eight states. What are these states?
  - a. North: Iowa
  - b. East: Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee (The state's wiggly eastern border is almost entirely created by the Mississippi River.)
  - c. South: Arkansas
  - d. West: Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska
2. Where was the Pony Express Route? (It started in St. Joseph, Missouri and snaked through Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada, ending in California. It was over 1900 miles.)
3. Could girls be Pony Express Riders? (No. Only boys or men who weighed less than 125 pounds.) Why do you think girls were banned from riding? (In 1860, there were distinct jobs for men and women. Women and girls were basically restricted to cooking, performing household tasks, and raising children)
4. The state's famous Gateway Arch is in this city. At 630 feet tall and wide, it's the world's tallest arch. It symbolizes westward expansion of the US during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What city is the arch in? (St. Louis)
5. Missouri is nicknamed the Cave State. It has more than 6,000 caves. Among the most popular is Meramec Caverns, which is more than 400 years old. It stretches for 4.6 miles along the Meramec River. Name one type of animal that lives in this cave. Hint: These animals sleep upside down to avoid predators. (Bats)

6. The first word of this state's capital is the same as the last name of this country's third president. What's the name of the capital city? (Jefferson City)
7. The 1904 Summer Olympics in Missouri was the first to be held outside of Europe. Can you guess which city it was held in? (St. Louis)

### Discussions Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy witness a girl being bullied by other students. Did you ever watch someone be bullied? What did you do?
2. Were you ever bullied? What happened? There are some things you can and should do. For example, tell a trusted adult. At school, for example, that would be teachers, counselors, principals, or lunchroom staff. If talking to the bully doesn't work, act brave, walk away, and ignore the bully. Never bully back. That can lead to violence.
3. Were you ever the bully? Maybe you wanted to fit in with a group of kids who were picking on a classmate. Whatever the reason, there's never an excuse to bully. It can cause kids to feel a variety of negative emotions like fear, depression, or anxiety. Why would you want anyone to feel that way?

### Chapter 26: Iowa

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Missouri, Mo and Finchy traveled on top of the delivery truck along Interstates 35 North and 80 East.
- b. Des Moines, Davenport, and Cedar Rapids are all cities in Iowa.
- c. Iowa borders two rivers : the Missouri River to the west and the Mississippi River to the east.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Iowa? What states does it border?
  - a. North: Minnesota
  - b. South: Missouri
  - c. East: Wisconsin and Illinois
  - d. West: Nebraska and South Dakota

2. This is the only US state with two parallel rivers that define its east and west borders. What are the names of these rivers? (Missouri and Mississippi rivers)
3. Iowa is known as the “Food Capital of the World”. Family farms in this state have been the top US producer of this crop for more than 150 years. Do you know what it is? Hint: You generally eat it warm with butter and salt. (Corn. Iowa also produces more pigs and eggs than any other state in the country and is the second largest producer of soybeans.)
4. The state has one island city on the Mississippi River. What is its name? (Sabula)
5. Iowa ranks among the top 10 states with the highest literacy rates. Which of these states is ranked the highest? New Hampshire, Arizona or Louisiana? (New Hampshire)
6. The dome on the Iowa state capitol is gilded or covered five times with this precious metal. Can you name it? Hint: It’s a soft, yellow metal. (Gold)
7. Snake Alley is a street located in Iowa. It may be the most crooked street in the world. It was built in 1894. You can only drive on it during warm weather months. What city is this street in? (Burlington. It’s in the southeast corner of the state.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. This chapter is about kids gossiping about another student at a science fair. Gossip is talking about someone in a not-so-nice way. The information being shared is often exaggerated or sometimes not even true. Do you ever gossip? Why?
2. Did someone ever spread gossip about you? If so, what happened? How did it make you feel?
3. Next time you hear someone gossip, ask yourself: Why are we talking about this? Who does it hurt? Whom does it help?

### Chapter 27: Michigan

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Iowa, Mo and Finchy Mo and Finchy traveled for more than nine hours, mainly on US Highway 151 North.
- b. Garlyn Zoological Park, Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum, and Fort de Baude museum are on Mackinac Island, Michigan.
- c. Mo and Finchy took a ferry across Lake Huron to Mackinac Island.

- d. The Grand Hotel is a famous hotel on Mackinac Island. It has the world's largest porch.
- e. Mackinac island sits between the state's upper and lower peninsulas.
- f. Michigan is shaped like a mitten or hand.
- g. Detroit is a city in Michigan.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Michigan? What surrounds it?
  - a. North, East and West: Canada and Great Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie.
  - b. South: Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin
2. How is the state of Michigan shaped? (Like a mitten.) Where is the city of Detroit? Point to it on your hand. (Look at the front of your left hand. It's below your thumb).
3. Can you name all five Great Lakes? (Use the acronym HOMES: Lakes Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior).
4. Which of the five Great Lakes does not touch Michigan? (Ontario)
5. Only one of these Great Lakes is completely within the US. Which one is it? Hint: It borders four states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. (Lake Michigan)
6. A river flows for 32 miles between Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario. What is this river's name? (Detroit River)
7. Michigan is the only US state comprised of two peninsulas. What are their names? (Upper peninsula and lower peninsula)
8. What is a peninsula? (It's almost an island. Land is surrounded by water on three sides.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Even though they lost, Mo and Finchy have fun playing a game with Hazel in this chapter. When you play games or sports with your friends, do you have fun even if you lose?
2. While everyone likes to win, play games or sports for fun. Try not keeping score or keep score in silly or funny ways. Trade off being the coach or referee.
3. When you focus on fun while playing a game, you can:



- a. Develop and practice new skills
- b. Become a better player by developing more skills and learning from your mistakes
- c. Make new friends

## Chapter 28: Kentucky

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Michigan, Mo and Finchy traveled for nine hours, passing highway signs for I-75 South, I-29 West, and for Kentucky cities named Lexington, Frankfort, and Louisville.
- b. Kentucky is bounded by the Ohio River in the north and the Appalachian Mountains in the east.
- c. The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is in Kentucky.

### Questions for Kids

1. Kentucky borders seven states. Can you name them?
  - a. North: Indiana and Ohio
  - b. East: West Virginia and Virginia
  - c. South: Tennessee
  - d. West: Missouri and Illinois
2. The US Bullion Depository is in Fort Knox. It's an underground vault. What's inside? (It contains one of the world's largest gold reserves worth approximately \$260 billion dollars.)
3. Almost half of Kentucky is covered in forest, making it one of the country's top three producers of hardwood. Can you name the other two states? (Pennsylvania and Tennessee)
4. The country's oldest continuously held horse race is held in Louisville. What is its name? (Kentucky Derby)
5. Mammoth Cave National Park is in Kentucky. What makes it so unique? (It has the longest cave system in the world. It's more than 426 miles.)
6. The state is known for its bluegrass fields. Is the grass actually blue? (The grass is green but the flower heads are blue when the plant is allowed to grow to its natural height of two to three feet.)

7. Central Kentucky is an excellent place to raise and train horses. Why? (Limestone in the soil provides nutrients for the bluegrass that horses eat. Limestone is a good source of calcium that helps horses develop a healthy nervous system and strong bones, teeth, and muscles.)

### Discussion Questions Related to the Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo learns about his inability to take advice from others. Is it hard for you to listen to your parents, teachers or friends? Do you often ignore their advice or suggestions?
2. Athletes listen to the advice given by their coach and teammates. How can you feel good about listening to mistakes you've made and ways to improve?
3. When someone offers constructive feedback (helpful advice), that means they care about you and want you to improve. They value you. The more you ask for suggestions, the more comfortable people will feel in giving it to you. It can make you a better athlete, student, son or daughter, and friend.

### Chapter 29: Maine

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Kentucky, Mo and Finchy traveled for two days along Interstate 71 north, 80 East, and then US Highway 1. They saw highway signs for Buffalo, Boston and Portland.
- b. Portland is a city in Maine.
- c. Maine is the only state in the country that shares a border with one other state.
- d. Maine is the biggest exporter of lobsters and producer of wild blueberries in the world.

### Questions for Kids:

1. Only one US state is west and south of Maine. What is the state's name? (New Hampshire)
2. What ocean borders Maine? (Atlantic) Is the Atlantic Ocean on the east or west side of the US? (East)
3. Maine is among the top 10 coldest US states. Can you name another cold state? (Alaska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Vermont, Colorado, and Wisconsin.)

4. Maine is the first state to greet the morning sun. Why? (The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Maine is the easternmost state in the country.)
5. More people live in Portland than in any other place in the state. Can you name the city or town in Maine with the fewest residents? (Frenchboro. It's on Long Island in Hancock County. Only 29 people lived here in 2020.)
6. Maine has more than 4,600 islands off its coast. Some are inland islands. Only 15 islands are inhabited year-round. One is an island in Casco Bay and is part of the city of Portland. Only 77 people live there. Can you guess its name: Hint: Its name includes the hardest known natural mineral on Earth. (Great Diamond Island.)
7. Maine is one of six New England States. Can you name the others? (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy meet a seeing-eye dog. What do these dogs do? (They help blind people navigate their surroundings, such as look out for hazards, blocked paths, and obstacles that the blind person cannot detect.)
2. What do you think it would be like to be blind? Try getting dressed in the morning or making breakfast with your eyes closed.
3. With the help of a seeing-eye dog and skills training, blind individuals can be independent and do pretty much everything a sighted person can.

### Chapter 30: Massachusetts

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Maine, Mo and Finchy traveled for more than two hours along Interstate 95 South, passing signs for cities in Massachusetts named Andover, Boston, and Marshfield.
- b. Plymouth is a city in Massachusetts.
- c. The animals in the chapter mention New England (Massachusetts is a New England state) and the Pilgrims who landed in Massachusetts in 1620.

### Questions for Kids:

1. What states border Massachusetts?

- a. North: Vermont and New Hampshire
  - b. East: Atlantic Ocean
  - c. South: Rhode Island and Connecticut
  - d. West: New York
2. In 1620, a ship arrived at Cape Cod carrying settlers called Pilgrims. They were escaping religious persecution in England. What was the name of their ship? (Mayflower)
  3. What famous cookie was invented in this state? (Chocolate chip)
  4. A city in this state is considered as the birthplace of the American revolution. What's the city's name? (Boston)
  5. Two of the country's top universities are in Cambridge. Do you know their names? (Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
  6. Boston has many firsts. The country's first public park was in Boston. The first lighthouse was in Boston. The first baseball series was held in Boston. Which of the following also happened in Boston:
    - a. The first post office opened (Boston)
    - b. The first bank opened (Philadelphia)
    - c. The first hotel opened (Rhinebeck, NY)
  7. What US lake has the longest name? This one is 45 letters long! (Lake **Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**. Officially it is called Lake Chaubunagungamaug, also known as Webster Lake, which is in Webster, Mass.)
  8. This state is nicknamed the Bay State because of several large bays that shape its coast. Name one.
    - a. East: Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay
    - b. South: Buzzards Bay
    - c. West and South: Mount Hope Bay (It's in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island)

### Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, a cow is afraid he won't get accepted to veterinary school so he doesn't apply. Have you not tried to do something because you were afraid of failing?

2. What do you think would happen if you failed? Do you think your parents, teachers or friends would be mad or disappointed in you?
3. No one is good at everything. Fear of failure can stop you from trying new, fun things or taking risks that may be necessary like learning how to drive a car. Instead, think positive. The worst that can happen is you will learn what went wrong and what you need to do differently in order to succeed.