

Born Worker

By Gary Soto

1. What was José born with around his neck?
2. (T or F) José had paint under his fingernails.
3. What garden tool caused Jose's skin to be calloused?
4. (T or F) José was 4 years old by the time his palms were rough.
5. They said he was a _____ .
6. What was he drinking by the time he was seven years old?
7. (T or F) José wore jeans and a shirt.
8. What did his mother do for a living? a) clean houses, b) babysitting, c) teacher, d) seamstress
9. Where did his father work?
10. _____ is hard.
11. She bled on her machine, bled because there was _____ to make, a _____ to raise, and a _____ to stay under.
12. What was Arnie sucking on? a) a lollipop, b) a candy cane, c) a ring-pop, d) a stalk of grass
13. What was Arnie listening to when he called for José?
14. (T or F) José likes Arnie very much.
15. His parents has good _____ in offices and showered him with _____, _____, _____, _____...
16. What SPECIFICALLY did Jose' notice Arnie was wearing when Arnie got up?

17. What was the idea Arnie has "that's make us money"? a) repair bicycles, b) sell fireworks, c) start a company, d) sell candy
18. Name the person who became rich by "digging ditches and stuff"?
19. What did José take out of his chest of drawers?
20. How much did Arnie suggest he and Jose' split the money?
21. "My dad works for this _____...who cooks a _____ for his _____ every day."
22. How much did José suggest he would split the money?
23. What is "half the work"? a) actually doing the work, b) preparing to do the job, c) collecting the money, d) finding the jobs
24. (T or F) José liked going door-to-door asking for work.
25. "I got a _____ mind", Arnie said proudly.
26. The final "split" of money that José and Arnie agreed to was what?
27. At this point in the story, list ALL THREE jobs José has done (be specific)

28. (T or F) Arnie helped José with the work all the time.
29. Why was José "bothered"? (be specific)

30. At this point in the story, what kind of job did Arnie find? (be specific)

31. Who said, "Let me do all the talking"?
32. (T or F) Mr. Clemens wants only ONE kid to work.
33. (T or F) Mr. Clemens is happy to pay both Arnie and José.
34. (T or F) The pool was very filthy.
35. Arnie described José as a) not that smart, b) very strong, c) a great worker who can lift a mule, d) sometimes lazy and needs a supervisor
36. "You know my _____. He works at _____ _____. You and he had some _____ deals.
37. List ALL 3 THINGS next to the bleach.
38. (T or F) José would have drowned his cousin if there had been water in the pool.
39. What came up like a "foamy monster"?
40. Arnie said, "We're not only a team, but we're also _____."
41. (T or F) After Mr. Clemens left, Arnie sat on the edge of the pool while José continued to work.
42. Who complained about the heat? (Arnie / José)
43. What did Arnie eat?
44. What was Arnie talking about until José told him "Be quiet! I can't concentrate."? a) working on the pool, b) going to school, c) learning how to swim, d) favorite movies
45. José knew that in an _____ the _____ would drench the pool with _____.
46. (T or F) The 2nd time José told Arnie to be quiet, Arnie stopped talking.
47. What did José feel like doing at this point in the story? (be specific)

48. What two things were Mr. Clemens dressed in?
49. What fell into the pool? a) Mr. Clemens' hearing aid, b) Mr. Clemens' cell phone, d) Mr. Clemens' dog, d) Mr. Clemens' shoe
50. (T or F) Mr. Clemens fell into the pool.
51. Mr. Clemens hurt his a) arm, b) head, c) leg, d) ankle
52. Why did Arnie say, "We better get out of here!"? (In other words, what was he afraid of?)

53. Who did José tell Arnie to call?
54. (T or F) Arnie called 911.
55. What was the address given to 911?
56. (T or F) At this point in the story, Arnie stayed to help.
57. Mr. Clemens was awake, looking about. When the old man felt his _____, José reached into his _____ pocket and pulled out his _____.
58. What pulled onto the driveway?
59. Arnie reappeared claiming to have warned Mr. Clemens not to get too close to the edge of the pool. Did Arnie ACTUALLY warn Mr. Clemens, or was Arnie lying? a) he actually warned Mr. Clemens, b) Arnie was lying.
60. At the end of the story, it can be inferred that a) José and Arnie continued to work together, b) José and Arnie broke up their business, c) Arnie demanded an even 50/50 split.