

Discussion Guide: *A Boy Called Hero*

1. Why is Hero upset about being left behind while his parents and brother go on their trip?
2. What does Hero find interesting about the past? How does his interest in history come in handy once he's in 1892?
3. Life in 1892 is different from Hero's life in the present in many large and small ways, from the political situation to the plumbing setup. If you were in Hero's place, what would you have the hardest time adjusting to and why?
4. What does Hero miss about his own time? Why is he especially anxious to get back?
5. Hero sees and hears about various examples of injustices Filipinos face under colonial rule. Which incident do you find most upsetting or unfair, and why?
6. How does Hero use his own experience of feeling overlooked by his family to go to bat for Olivia with Don Gregorio?
7. Why do you think the Spanish authorities are so determined to prevent people from reading Rizal's book? Why do you think they're failing?
8. Hero reflects, "It seemed like each day brought a new chance, another moment when I could simply say, *Yeah, I'll do that. Yeah, I'll try.* Maybe when I got back to my own time, all I'd have to do was find those moments." In your everyday life, what moments might you find when you can make an impact—no matter how small it might seem?
9. How do you think Hero's relationships with his parents and brother might change after his experiences in 1892?
10. If you could go back in time and be part of any important movement or event in history, which time would you choose and why? What things are happening right now that could become turning points in history?