

Discussion Questions:

Chapter 3 What is the Secret Police/NKVD or the State Security. Why does it exist?

Why would Sasha call “craving food” an unimportant matter? Why does Sasha assume children in capitalist countries may have never eaten a carrot?

Chapter 4 When Sasha’s father walks into the door, why does everyone look afraid of him?

The color of Sasha’s scarf is red to represent the blood spilled for the cause of the Communist party. What are some examples of color being significant to American symbols? What are the differences between the two?

Why would Sasha’s father tell him to go to Aunt Larisa if anything happens to him? What could happen to him?

Chapter 5

Why did Stukachov tell the police that Sasha’s father is a criminal? What did he have to gain? Do you think this happened often? _____

Imagine your parent was arrested like this. If you were in Sasha’s shoes, what would you do after the police left? _____



A warm embrace from Sasha for his father, who has just returned home from his work with the Secret Police (NKVD). Illustration found on pgs 12-13. On the right is Stukachov lurking.

Analyze: What does this illustration tell you about communal living? What does it tell you about the relationship between Sasha and his father?
