

Literature Circle Questions:

Pages 1-21:

- Jack doesn't want to write poetry at the beginning of this book. Why do you think he doesn't want to?
- In his first poem, Jack mentions a blue car. Why is this blue car important to Jack? Make a prediction.

*So much depends
upon
a blue car
splattered with mud
speeding down the road.*

- What caused Mrs. Strechberry (his teacher) to be interested in Jack's first poem? What does she do to get him to write more poems?
- How does Jack respond when Mrs. Strechberry asks Jack to write a poem about a pet? Why do you think she insists he writes the poem despite Jack's reaction?

Pages 22-45

- Mrs. Strechberry is able to convince Jack to let her type up his poems, even though he doesn't really want to. What qualities do you think she has as a person and teacher?
- Who is Walter Dean Myers to Jack? What does Jack think of him? What do you notice about the tone of Jack's poem when he is introduced to the poem, "Love That Boy?"

Pages 46-68

- What are Jack's feelings toward Sky? List details from the book that show us how Jack feels toward his dog.
- Jack is changing a great deal in the book. So far, how is he changing?
- Why does Jack tell his teacher to hide his poem inspired by Walter Dean Myers?

Pages 69-Finish

- Why do you think Jack fell in love with Walter Dean Myers' poetry? What effect did his poetry and his visit have on Jack? How do you know?
- How do you think Jack's life would have been different had he not met Mrs. Strechberry?
- Now that we've read the whole book, we will create a T-chart comparing who Jack was before and who he is now.
- Which poem that Mrs. Strechberry used (in the back of the book) do you like best? Why?
- How did reading "Love That Dog" change your view of poetry? Explain.