

→ Questions for *Looking for Bapu* by Anjali Banerjee
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Chapter One

In this chapter, many exciting and then scary things happen to Anu. Almost all of these things are described through his five senses: sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. Find examples of descriptions that use the senses.

For example, on Page 2: “The air smells of fall—of dampness and leaves.” This is a description that uses the sense of smell. Next comes, “Afternoon sunlight filters through the tree tops, and a breeze lifts my hair.” This description uses first sight and then touch.

Chapter Two

The three medics who come to help Bapu all have different ways of treating Anu and Bapu. Describe the ways they act. How does each of them make Anu feel?

Chapter Four

What is the difference between how Anu acts when Bapu dies and how his parents act? Why do you think Anu has such a very different experience?

Chapter Six

Anu does all sorts of things to help himself feel better after Bapu dies. What are some of the things he does? Do they help him? What do other people—Anu’s and his parents’ friends—do to help Anu’s family feel better?

What sorts of things do you do to make yourself feel better when you’re really sad?

Chapter Seven

What does Izzy collect? What does Anu’s family collect?

Chapter Eight

Bapu’s story seems strange to Anu, but Bapu has an important reason for telling it. Can you think of what the story might mean?

Chapter Nine

Izzy knows a lot of facts—Anu thinks she’s like an encyclopedia. Where does she get some of her information?

What do Anu and Izzy believe about Bapu?

Chapter Ten

Anu's parents don't agree with Anu's ideas about Bapu. Why not?

Chapter Twelve

Why is it so important to Anu to keep Bapu's belongings? What does he rescue from the boxes in the garage? Why this particular item?

Chapter Thirteen

Why does Bapu come to Anu in his dream? What special message does he have for Anu?

Chapter Fifteen

How does Anu feel at the airport? Why?

Chapter Sixteen

What does Anu believe about Auntie Biku staying in Bapu's room?

Chapter Seventeen

What is a sadhu?

Chapter Eighteen

What does Anu do to try to become holy?

Chapter Nineteen

In this chapter, Anu feels like he's being holy sometimes and *not* holy at other times. Describe each of these experiences.

Chapter Twenty

Why does Ma think it's so important for Anu to wear a wig?

Chapter Twenty-One

Anu does all sorts of things to act like a sadhu. What are they? Which one would you do if you were a sadhu? Which one seems the hardest to do?

At the end of this chapter, does Anu feel holy? Do you believe that acting like a sadhu will help Anu to get Bapu back?

Chapter Twenty-Two

Something “sacred” happens between Anu and Andy. What is it? Why is it “sacred”?

Chapter Twenty-Three

What does Anu have to do to get the fortunes just right? Is it difficult or easy for him?

Chapter Twenty-Four

Why does Anu decide not to write fortunes anymore? Do you agree with his reasons?

Chapter Twenty-Eight

What does Dad believe about Bapu’s ghost?

Chapter Thirty

Why can’t Anu and his friends go to see Karnak? What happens when Anu tries to talk about his problem with the guard? What reasons does she give for Anu not being allowed to enter? Does this seem fair to you?

Chapter Thirty-One

What is the difference between the real Karnak and the Karnak in Anu’s dreams? Why is Anu so disappointed with Karnak?

Chapter Thirty-Two

Why does Anu finally decide that it might be for the best to “let go” of Bapu?

Chapter Thirty-Three

This chapter, almost the end of the story, is very similar to the beginning. List the things that are the same and the things that are different.