

Shelter – Discussion Questions

General Questions:

Did you enjoy the book (or whatever part you read)? Why or why not?

Did the book make you want to read the other 2 books in the Mickey Bolitar series?

Did any of the characters remind you of people in your own school (no names – just any traits or characteristics that seemed familiar)?

Who was your favorite character other than Mickey, and why?

In-Depth Questions:

Does Mickey act like a typical teenager or is he forced to act like a grown-up because of the mysteries and circumstances he faces?

Do the characters of Mickey, Ema, Spoon, Troy, Rachel and Ashley represent stereotypical high-school characters in your mind?

Do you think every school has a “nerd,” “goth girl” and a “jock” or are these just easy labels to give people until we get to know them better?

What is the importance of tattoos in the book (the butterfly, the WW2 numbers, Ema’s tattoos)? Why do you think the author picked something like tattoos (that can be permanent or temporary) to symbolize such important themes?

Mickey’s group of friends ultimately behaves like a family in terms of trust and loyalty. Contrast that with Mickey’s real family relationships (missing father, recovering mother, clueless uncle) – do you think friends can sometimes form a bond as close as a family?