

# A Bag of Marbles

By Joseph Joffo; Kris; Vincent Bailly

## Discuss

**Talk through your thoughts.**

- *A Bag of Marbles: The Graphic Novel*, is a re-telling of Joseph Joffo's autobiography. Did you find the format a compelling way to tell the story? Why or why not?
- The format of a graphic novel makes a person read in a way that is different than reading other kinds of writing. What information can you gather from the panels that don't have any dialog? Do those panels sometimes tell you more about what is happening than panels that show conversations? Think about how you read this book differently.

## Create

**Make an experience of your own.**

- Think of an experience you have had and create your own graphic novel (or a few pages of a graphic novel) illustrating the experience. How do you express the setting and the tone of the scene? Do you use a lot of dialog to get the point across or do you need to find a different way to do that?
- The Joffo family celebrates their heritage and cultural identity through the stories their father tells. Even though his parents came from Russia, Jo identifies himself as French. Take some time and try to research where your family came from. Does this change how you see yourself? Could you see how it could change how someone sees you? Do you have any family stories you would want to pass on?

## Imagine

**Use your imagination to explore.**

- Imagine you are Jo or Maurice, how would you handle some of the situations he had to? Would you make different decisions?
- The night before Jo and Maurice leave, their father tells them they must never admit they are Jewish. What do you think about that? Do you think a person should hide who they are to stay safe or is it better to admit who you are despite the consequences? How would you feel if you had to hide a part of who you are? How does who you are and where you're from influence your thoughts on this?

## Explore

**Like this book? Find more:**

- *A Family Secret* by Eric Heuvel
- *The Berlin Boxing Club* by Robert Sharenow
- *To Hope and Back: The Journey of the St. Louis* by Kathy Kacer

