

TOUCH BLUE – questions & ideas

1. Looking at the cover, what do you think the story is about?
2. Do you think that you can get luck from objects?
3. Does luck matter? What creates/causes luck?
4. Do you have any lucky charms? What sorts of objects do you think are lucky?
5. Draw a picture of an object you think can bring good luck.
6. Do you believe in any superstitions? Do you think that they can actually help you? Do you believe that they can cause any harm?
7. If you could have one wish come true, what would your wish be?
8. Why do you think Aaron wanted to see his mother?
9. What would you have done in Tess' situation?
10. What do you think the blue lobster meant?
11. How would you act towards a foster child in your family?
12. Compare Anne in *Anne of Green Gables* to Aaron in *Touch Blue*.
13. Does the island that Tess lives on remind you of the island that you live on? How is it similar? How is it different? Do you think it is an accurate depiction of life on an island?
14. How would you introduce/explain your island to a new foster sibling?



TOUCH BLUE



CYNTHIA LORD



EAST END SCHOOL HOUSE, CHABAQUE ISLAND

15. Was Eben a bully? How do you know? Prove your answer.
16. Draw and label an island eco-system.
17. Compare one-room schools to multi-room schools? Was your school ever a one-room school?
18. Design a boat, give it a name and tell why you gave it the name selected.
19. Read *Bud Not Buddy* and *Gilly Hopkins* then compare them to *Touch Blue*.

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ACTIVITIES

1. Research the history of Whoopie Pies.
2. What do you know about the history of the school on your island? How old is the school? How many students attended the school when it was opened? How many students were in the school fifty years ago?
3. Cynthia Lord got the idea for her book from a similar program that Frenchboro used in the 1960s to raise the number of students in their school. Was the idea successful at that time? How similar or different do you think that experience was to the one described in *Touch Blue*?



LOBSTERING LINKS

<http://www.gma.org/lobsters/allaboutlobsters/lobsterhistory.html>

<http://www.parl.ns.ca/lobster/history.htm>

1. What are some lobstering traditions that you know exist on your own island or in your coastal town. What is the culture like among the lobstermen?
2. How do you think these traditions might be different on the other islands and in other places along the Maine coast? Interview a lobsterman from another island and try to notice any differences.