

Discussion Guide: *Red Menace*

1. Why is the Rosenbergs' case such a big deal for the country? Why does it feel especially important to Marty?
2. Why does Marty write memos to Mickey Mantle? How does doing this help him deal with his problems throughout the novel?
3. What problems do Marty's parents have with Senator McCarthy and FBI director Hoover?
4. Marty has to do bomb drills in school. What dangers do you and your classmates prepare for in school? How are they similar or different from an atomic bomb attack?
5. The Rafners are singled out by their neighbors because of their suspected communist sympathies. What do you think is the most upsetting thing someone does to Marty or his parents?
6. Marty wonders, "Can you be a patriotic American and a communist at the same time?" What do you think? Now think of other words you could substitute for "communist." What types of beliefs or backgrounds scare people today the way communism scared people in the 1950s?
7. Why does Marty's mom refuse to name other people who might be communists in order to get herself out of trouble?
8. Why does Luke hate the bugle?
9. Marty is frustrated with his mom for putting the family in danger and scared about the consequences of her actions. When does he decide he's also proud of her, and why?
10. Why does Luke go up to the top of the Tower? How does Marty convince him to come down?
11. Why does Marty agree to go to the vigil for the Rosenbergs, even though he says, "It won't change a thing"?
12. Do you think Marty and Connor will become real friends again? Why or why not?