

Discussion Questions for *Cold War on Maplewood Street*

- How is Joanna feeling about her brother Sam when the story begins?
- Does this change in the course of the story? If so, how, when, and why?
- What is meant by the phrase "Cold War"?
- Do you think when the story begins Joanna secretly wishes Mr. Waterman was her father? Do her feelings change as the week unfolds? If so, how?
- How would the story have been different if uncle Zack hadn't come to Chicago?
- How do you think the Waterman's week would have ended if there had been no Cuban Missile Crisis?
- What did Joanna want Mrs. Waterman to do when Marie asked Mr. Waterman for the sunroom?
- How do Joanna's feelings about writing to Sam change over the days following the president's announcement.
- Why does Joanna turn her closet into a bomb shelter? If you were to build a shelter like hers, what would you put in it? List items in order of importance.
- Why do you think it's so important to Joanna that she be at home if there is an attack?
- Do you think Joanna's mother was right to refuse to admit that she was worried about Sam and fearful for all of them? Why or why not?
- Would you like to have a teacher like Mr. Egan? Why or why not?
- Why do you think this book is titled *Cold War on Maplewood Street*?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
- Do you feel you learned anything important from reading this book? If so, what?