

**Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy Questions**

1. The book has a great deal of stereotyping. A “stereotype” is a cognitive shortcut that allows your brain to make a snap judgment based on immediately visible characteristics such as gender, race, or age. Your brain is hardwired to make quick calls, and that’s ok. The problem comes when we start to apply those stereotypes beyond that immediate impulse. Has there been a time in your life where you stereotyped someone or that you have been stereotyped? Explain.

2. “I decided to always walk into a room like I was deciding if I wanted to stay, not if I’d be allowed to.” What does Carlos mean by this?

3. What did Carlos’s mother do for a living? Why was it such a struggle financially for the family?

4. What was the name of Carlos’s sister Rosalia’s boyfriend? What kind of a relationship did they have? Explain.

5. Who did Carlos have a crush on? What was it that Gabs wanted him to tell Carlos?

6. What kind of attitude towards life does Carlos have and why is it essential in his being resilient?

7. Carlos is quite mature for his age. How does he show his maturity?

8. Carlos has many major conflicts dealing with stereotypes, what is the stereotype of a make-up artist? How does he overcome that stereotype?

9. "I sat on my bed and leaned back to look relaxed, and smiled and talked out loud about how I knew that I was born to make people beautiful and how it was my personal campaign to stop people from acting ugly and they'd see how much better they looked." Based on this quote, what does Carlos understand about beauty that many people never grasp?

10. Carlos: "...that's the way it was in our school. You could get away with anything. You just had to do it with confidence or they could make your life miserable, simple because a lot of them didn't have lives." (page 109) Do you agree that
even if you don’t have much of a “life” you can exude confidence? Do people with lots of confidence find more success? Why or Why not?