

## **A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **SYNOPSIS**

After ten years, Mike Kersjes, a special educator, was showing signs of burnout. When he came across an article about NASA's space camp, he was inspired to apply for a spot at the camp for his special education kids.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION TOPICS – ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, RESPOND IN DETAIL, TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. MAKE SURE TO REFERENCE ANY KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM CHAPTER 1-7 IN YOUR RESPONSES.**

1. Why did special education teacher Mike Kersjes feel that his students were treated like second-class citizens? What led him to this realization?
2. What happened when the principal, Tom Keller, found out about Mike's call to the Space Center?
3. What is Tourette's Syndrome?
4. What factors helped the kids to succeed at space camp? What life skills were crucial for the team to do well?
5. Why do you think there was so much opposition to the kids going to space camp? What possible legal ramifications could this have for those who opposed the students attending?
6. Did the kids win any awards? If so, which ones? What was the impact on the group?
7. Discuss your initial perception of the kids in the film. What character(s) stuck out for you as crucial to the success of the team? How did the character impact the team from the beginning of the movie until the end of the film? Did your perceptions change as you continued to read? If so, how?