

ATPE BOOK of the month CLUB

We Were Here by Matt de la Pena

**This book contains graphic content and language that might be inappropriate for some students.*

1. Why was calling home so difficult for Miguel?
2. Why do you think Miguel chose not to read his own file and destroyed it instead? Do you think that had he read it, it would have influenced his decision to go back to the group home?
3. Describe your personal feelings about Mong throughout the book. Do they change as any events occur?
4. Miguel shares many memories of times he spent with his brother, Diego. Describe their relationship. Do you think it was a healthy one? Do you think their mother was justified in worrying about their fights?
5. Why did the author choose the title “We Were Here”?
6. Miguel shares: “People always think there’s this huge hundred-foot-high barrier that separates doing good from doing bad. But there’s not. There’s nothing. There’s not even a little anthill. You just take one baby step in any direction and you’re already there. You’ve done something awful. And your life is changed forever.” Do you agree with this statement?
7. Put yourself in Flaca’s shoes. Why do you think she betrayed Miguel?
8. Do you feel that Miguel’s sentence to a year in a group home was fair considering the incident that happened?
9. Predict Miguel’s future. What is it going to be like for him when he returns to school? What will the rest of his life be like after all that happens to him in the book?
10. Do you feel that Miguel was able to forgive himself by the end of the book?

