

Alberto Alvaro Ríos, “The Secret Lion,” p. 59

1. Who is the narrator of this story?
2. What is the setting?
3. Look closely at the language Ríos uses in the story. Locate examples of word choice, of phrases or descriptions, that capture the tone and attitude of a twelve-year-old.
4. What does the grinding ball that the boys find seem to represent to them?

Looking back from adulthood, what does the narrator say the grinding ball represented? (See paragraph 8, p. 60.)

5. What is the chronological order of the story? Chart that order by paragraphs. At what time does the story begin? Where does the story go back before that time? Where does it return?

Why do you think the writer chooses to tell the story in this order?

6. What do you think might be significant about the young boys’ journey toward the mountains?
7. What do the boys think is “heaven”?

Why does it seem to be heaven to them?

What is humorous about the reality of this “heaven”?

What is rather sad about that reality?

8. What is the significance of the title?
9. What main idea or theme do you think the story develops?