

The Adventures of **JOHNNY BUNKO**

DISCUSSION GUIDE



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Lesson One

1. Do you have a plan? What is it? Who in your life has influenced it?
2. Would discarding this plan help you—or hurt you?
3. Discuss how you make life choices. Are they more often for fundamental or instrumental reasons? Give an example.
4. If you were to start making choices for fundamental reasons, what would you do differently?

Lesson Two

5. What are your strengths?
6. How can you tell the difference between a weakness and something that just needs a little more effort? What has your schooling taught you about how to handle weaknesses? What about your family?
7. Do you know what you're good at? If so, how could you do more of it? If not, how could you find out?
8. When you do experience a feeling of “flow?” Can you think of a career in which achieving flow would be a regular occurrence?

Lesson Three

9. Diana advises Johnny that the most valuable people bring out the best in others. How does this apply in school? Describe a situation where a fellow student or teacher helped you in this way.

FOR STUDENTS

10. If you're not focused inward, how are you supposed to figure out what is fundamental and intrinsically motivating for you?

Lesson Four

11. Diana says that persistence trumps talent. When does persistence become annoyance? Or delusion? When is quitting actually a smart move?
12. Diana tells Johnny that musicians and athletes embody Lesson Four because they "show up." When is "showing up" not enough? Which endeavors besides sports and music reflect this lesson?
13. Describe a time in your life when you wish you had persisted longer.

Lesson Five

14. When does fear of failure prevent you from trying? Is it fear of disappointing yourself—or others?
15. What's an excellent mistake you've made recently? Did you see it that way at first? Did it result in a later success—like Johnny's reinvention of his original environmental shoes idea?
16. Can you tell the difference between an excellent mistake and stupid mistake—not in retrospect, but before you act? If so, how?
17. Does your school give you room to make mistakes? How could it change increase its tolerance for positive failure?

Lesson Six

18. Do you ask yourself the "big questions"—or do you avoid them? If the latter, what about them is overwhelming or scary?
19. Does work need to feel purposeful? Why or why not?
20. What gives you purpose?

Overall Questions

21. What's going to happen to Johnny—and Diana, Carlos, Yuko, and Dave—next?
22. Do you think the story places too little importance on making money?
23. Which of the six lessons sticks in your memory the most? Why?
24. Which of the six lessons do you think is least important?
25. What's a really good piece of career advice that you've received—or come up with on your own—that you would add to the list?

Write your own question: _____

