Interpretative community questions:

1. What community do you think Gabe most identifies himself in?

- What are some struggles this community faces?

- What other communities do you think Gabe might identify with?

Teachers Guide: Gabe most identifies within the LGBTQ community. The struggles within this community are often denied civil rights, prejudice, oppression and for teen LGBTQ depression/suicide. Students might also note that Gabe belongs to communities such as: males, sons, students, radio DJ, brother, friend.

2. How do you think Gabe would fit in within your own community?

-Would his challenges be similar as in the book?

Teachers Guide: Students may feel that Gabe would fit in better or worse in their community. Is their school progressive? The community?

3. What challenges to do you think Gabe will encounter in the U.S as a trans-man?

- Will it be harder for him to find jobs?

Teachers Guide: Trouble finding work, disease (35% MTF are HIV+), verbal abuse, stable housing (20% are without), Abuse/Discrimination (FTM 85% reported verbal abuse because of their gender identity or gender presentation. 30% reported physical abuse. 57% reported employment discrimination. 20% reported housing discrimination)

<http://www.transgenderlaw.org/resources/transfactsheet.pdf>

4. It’s easy for me to see portrayals of the white, middle-class, female experience in media. What do you think about Gabe?

- How do you think this affects Gabe?

Teachers Guide: Use this time to point out the privilege that some students in the class may have. Would it be discouraging to not see yourself represented in books, TV, or movies?

5. What are some themes that you can identify in this novel?

- Can you easily relate to them?

- Have you read other books with these themes?

Teachers Guide: Students may point out themes like: friendship, identity, sexuality, acceptance, self-love, love. Students should be able to find they relate to many of these themes. Use this opportunity to show the similarities between Gabe and students. There are many other books of this theme (students answer will vary).

6. Some of you may know the FTM Chaz Bono (Cher’s bio-fem daughter) how do you feel her transition was received? Or Bruce Jenner MTF rumors?

- Why do you think the media acted in this way?

Teachers Guide: If students are not familiar then do a quick Google search and plenty of negative articles will be found. Students may comments on the negative, cruel and vicious comments. Students will have varying answers on why the media acted in this way.

7. How did your previous knowledge of trans-gender changed after reading this novel?

Teachers Guide: Students answers will vary. Some students may have not had any previous knowledge of the transgender community.

8. In the novel Gabe doesn’t seek out professional help. What resources are there for people struggling with LGBTQ difficulties?

Teachers Guide: School counselors, National Youth Crisis Hotline 800-HIT-HOME, Teachers, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Youth Support Line  
800-850-8078, Gay & Transgender Hate Crime Hotline 1-800-616-HATE.

9. 2012 saw the 4th highest murder rate of LGBTQ and HIV-affected people (LGBTQH) in history, according to the annual Hate Violence Report released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). What do you think there are so many hater crimes/abuse/violence against the LGBTQ community?

<http://transequality.org/Resources/>

Teachers Guide: Student answer may vary. PBS study says, “an extreme expression of American cultural stereotypes and expectations regarding male and female behavior.”

10. Do you think Gabe’s experience as a young trans man accurately represents a real world experience of a trans man?

Teachers Guide: Student answers may very.