

1. The Ratso brothers are no good at being bad. Why do their nasty plans always turn into good deeds?
2. What is the difference between being a bully and being tough? Are the Ratso brothers bullies? Why?
3. Louie and Ralphie think that they want to be more like their father. Why does their father want to be more like them? Do you agree that “being tough all the time is so . . . so . . . tough” (page 49)? Why?
4. “Life is tough enough,” says Big Lou (page 55). “We might as well try to make it easier for one another, whenever we can.” How have other people made your life easier? How would you like to make the lives of others easier?
5. What does it mean to be infamous? Do you think the Ratso brothers deserve to be called infamous? Why? What other words describe them?

