STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Panama Hotel (1986)
1. How many times has Henry visited the hotel? When?
2. Who was Ethel?
3. What does Marty think about his father’s ideas/practices?
4. What did the hotel represent in the 1940’s?
5. Why did Henry go there today?
6. What is brought up from the basement? How does Henry react?

Marty Lee (1986)
1. What was Henry’s vow about his wife? Does Marty agree?
2. What does Marty do?
3. Where did Henry work? Did he finish college?
4. What present does Marty give his father?
5. What is Henry looking at?

I am Chinese (1942)
1. What do Henry’s parents tell him when he is 12?
2. What does his father give him to wear? Why?
3. Who is Sheldon? What does Henry give him? Why?
4. What type of school does Henry go to?
5. What does Henry get from Sheldon every day?
6. What does Henry do at his school?

Flag Duty (1942)
1. What happens after the boys raise the flag?
2. Who is Chaz?
3. How does Henry usually respond to taunts and insults?

Keiko (1942)
1. Where does Henry meet Keiko?
2. What is Mrs. Beatty’s attitude toward Henry and Keiko?
3. What is Henry startled to learn about Keiko?
4. How do they handle the abuse that is spoken to them by the students?

The Walk Home (1942)
1. Who is waiting for the two of them when they leave school? Who helps them?
2. Why is Henry at the Rainer school? Why is he resentful of the Japanese?
3. Why is Keiko there?

Nihonmachi (1942)
1. Why are Saturdays special to Henry?
2. Where does he go after he talks to Sheldon?
3. What happens when he speaks Japanese to Keiko?
4. What has Keiko been doing that Saturday?

Bud’s Jazz Records (1986)
1. Why does Henry go to Bud’s?
2. Why does he tell Bud he hadn’t been around?
3. What was the real reason? Does Bud know?

Dim Sum (1986)
1. What is the dinner like between Henry and Marty?
Lake View (1986)
1. Where does Henry go after his meal with his son? What does he leave there?
2. What does he take out of his wallet? What does this represent?
3. Why did he go there? What did he leave there?

Speak Your American (1942)
1. Why does Henry stay at Rainer?
2. What is the silver lining about going to school?
3. Where do Keiko and Henry decide to go that night?
4. Why does Henry like jazz?

Jamaican Ginger (1942)
1. Where do they go and what do they do?
2. What do they have to do to be able to sit inside? Why?
3. Who did they do the favor for?
4. What happens as they are leaving? Why?
5. What does Keiko tell Henry as they are leaving?

I am Japanese (1986)
1. What relationship does Henry compare his relationship with Marty to?
2. Why is Henry reluctant to tell Marty about Keiko?
3. Where does Henry go? What does he tell the owner so he can go into the basement?

The Basement (1986)
1. What condition is the basement in? What convinced Henry that he might find some of Keiko’s things there?

Executive Orders (1942)
1. How does Henry’s view on the arrests of the Japanese differ from those of his father?
2. What is Henry’s concern about the executive order?
3. What happened to Will Whitworth’s father? How does Henry feel about this?
4. Who helps Henry in the kitchen? Why?
5. What does Henry do after lunch? What does he see as he runs?

Fires (1942)
1. Why is Henry cautious as he runs through Chinatown?
2. What is burning? Why?

Old News (1986)
1. How long did Henry search? Will he come back?
2. How does he think that Ethel would feel about his efforts?

Marty’s Girl (1986)
1. What did Henry and Marty argue about regarding Ethel’s health care?
2. When is Marty waiting for Henry? Why?
3. Why is Marty nervous about his father meeting his fiancée? How does Henry react?

Ume (1986)
1. What is the Ume tree? When was it planted? Where did it come from?
2. What does Henry realize about how Marty thinks of him as a father? How does he feel about that?
3. How does Henry feel about Samantha and her knowledge of his life?
4. What are they going to do on Thursday?
Home Fires (1942)
1. Who is waiting for Henry after he comes back from the burnings?
2. Why are they there? What is Henry to do?
3. What does Henry do while he is translating between the two men?
4. How does he feel about this?

Hello, Hello (1942)
1. Who calls Henry? What does she want?
2. How does Henry get out to meet her?
3. What does she ask of Henry?

Downhill (1942)
1. How does Henry get the possessions to his house?
2. Who does he meet along the way? What are they doing?
3. How does Henry get away? How does he stop?
4. What does the police officer say to Henry?
5. What does he do with the possessions?

Tea (1986)
1. What question does Samantha ask Henry?
2. What is his answer?
3. Where does he take Samantha and Marty?
4. What is Marty discovering about his father?

Records (1942)
1. What is Keiko’s surprise for Henry?
2. What happens when she tries to purchase it?
3. What upsets Keiko about this?
4. Who keeps the surprise?
5. What do they see as they are walking home?
6. Who do they meet as they are getting ready to part? What is his reaction to the events?

Parents (1942)
1. Why does Keiko call him again?
2. Where do they meet?
3. Where do they go and what do they do?
4. What do the Okabes ask Henry?
5. What happens to ruin the experience?

Better Them Than Us (1942)
1. What is Henry’s father’s reaction to the proclamation? His mother’s?
2. What is Henry’s question for his mother?
3. How does Henry’s mother react to Keiko being his best friend?
4. Where does Henry’s father consider his home to be?
5. Where does Henry go on Tuesday? What does he see?
6. Who sees Henry calling to the Okabe’s? What happens between them?
7. Who helps Henry?
8. What happens when he sees Keiko and her family?

Empty Streets (1942)
1. Who does Henry spend time with? Where do they go?
2. What is it like there? What does Sheldon do?
Sketchbook (1986)
1. What do Marty and Samantha first find? 
2. How does Henry react? 
3. What else does Samantha find? 

Uwajimaya (1986) 
1. Why does Marty tell his father that he is sorry? 
2. What does Marty learn about his father? How does he react? 
3. Why did Henry tell his son that he wanted the record? 
4. What is Samantha making? 

Camp Harmony (1942) 
1. What does Henry’s father want him to take? What does he do with it? 
2. How is Henry treated in the classroom when he goes back? At lunch? 
3. Who comes to his aid at lunch? What does she ask him? 
4. Where will they be working? 
5. What happened to Mrs. Beatty’s father? 
6. What is the food like? 
7. Does he find Keiko that visit? 

Visiting Hours (1942) 
1. Who comes through Henry’s line during the second week? 
2. How does his conversation with Mr. Okabe change Henry’s status at the camp? 
3. What does Keiko ask of him? When does she want this and why? 

Home Again (1942) 
1. Where does Henry’s father want him to continue his education? 
2. How does Henry feel about this? 
3. Who does he see while he is out shopping? What are they doing? 
4. What happens with Chaz? 
5. What do the MP’s think that Henry is doing? 

Dinner (1986) 
1. What is Samantha’s dinner like? What special treat does she have for Henry? 
2. What does she ask him about Keiko? 
3. Did Henry forget about her during the past forty years? 
4. Does he think he could find her? 

Steps (1986) 
1. What does Henry admire about Samantha’s cooking style? 
2. What does Marty ask Henry? 
3. What does Marty finally realize about home? 
4. What does Henry tell him about Yay Yay? 
5. Did Ethel know about Keiko? Was Henry a good husband? 
6. What is the broken record a symbol for? 

Sheldon’s Record (1942) 
1. Why is Henry in a good mood? 
2. Who does he look for? What does he ask of him? 
3. What is Henry happy about as he returns home from shopping? What happens when he walks in the door? 
4. What does his father do to the possessions?
5. What does Henry do to defy his father? What does that mean to Henry’s future?  
   Camp Anyway (1942)

1. How do his parents treat him?
2. What are the main reasons Henry goes back to Rainier?
3. What presents does he bring for Keiko?
4. Why does Mrs. Beatty put the presents in the rice?
5. What does Mrs. Beatty done about the food?
6. What does Keiko find ironic about how she is viewed by others?
7. What news did Mrs. Okabe tell Henry that upsets him?
8. What do the two friends promise each other?
9. What does Henry hear as he is leaving camp?

Moving (1942)

1. Why are the camps moved inland?
2. Who helps Henry receive letters from Keiko?
3. What does Henry plan to do differently that day?
4. What does Henry want to tell Keiko? Why does he decide not to tell her?
5. Why does this visit seem no different to Henry?

Stranger (1942)

1. What was their good-bye like?
2. What does Henry’s father say the hardest choices are between?
3. What is different when Mrs. Beatty drops him off?
4. Who does Henry see when he gets home? Why is he there?
5. Why does Henry feel guilty? What does his mother say?
6. What does Henry say to his father? What is his response?

Thirteen (1942)

1. What are relations like between Henry and his father?
2. Where is Keiko now? Has he heard from her?
3. What happened to Chaz?
4. What does Sheldon say to Henry?
5. What suggestion does Sheldon make?
6. What does Sheldon say about Henry’s father’s condition?
7. What does Henry receive when he gets home after talking to Sheldon?
8. What decision does Henry make after reading her letter?
9. How is Walla Walla different than Henry and Sheldon expect?
10. What is his reunion with Keiko like? What did he do and say?

Sheldon Thomas (1986)

1. Who does Henry go to visit?
2. What does he bring him?

Waiting (1942)

1. Where does Henry spend the night?
2. What secret does Henry tell Keiko? Keiko tell Henry?
3. What does Henry ask Mr. Okabe about their acceptance of their conditions? His response?
4. What do they think that America will ask of the males over 17?
5. What permission does Henry ask from Mr. Okabe?
6. What is his response?
7. What happened to the soldier who shot the Japanese man? 
   **Farewell (1942)**

1. What does Henry promise to do?  
2. How long will he wait?  
3. What do they both mouth to each other as Henry is leaving?  
   **Angry Home (1942)**

1. What is Henry expecting when he arrives home? What does he find?  
2. What is in the pocket of his present?  
3. What is his mother’s opinion about this?  
4. What decision does Henry make?  
5. What does his mother say about Henry? His response?  
   **Letters (1943)**

1. What does Keiko think Henry should do about his schooling?  
2. How long has it been since Henry got a letter?  
3. What fear does Henry tell to Sheldon? What does Sheldon tell him?  
4. What does Henry find odd about Keiko’s return letters?  
   **Years (1945)**

1. What is different when Henry meets Chaz? What threat does Chaz make?  
2. What does Henry do to help out at home?  
3. What is his relationship like with his mother?  
   **Meeting at the Panama (1945)**

1. What does Henry tell his father about going to China?  
2. What is his condition for going?  
3. What does he tell the clerk about the letter he is mailing? What is the content of the letter?  
4. Where is Henry waiting? Who comes to meet him?  
5. Why has she come? What does she bring?  
6. Who is she?  
   **V-J Day**

1. What happened with Ethel?  
2. What does Henry wish about Keiko?  
3. What is his relationship like now with his father?  
4. Where is one place that Henry will not take Ethel?  
5. What exciting world event has just happened?  
6. What does Henry ask Ethel?  
7. Who does he think he sees when he looks across the street?  
8. What is happening to his father when he arrives home?  
9. What does his father admit to after he tells him that he is marrying Ethel?  
10. What does Henry do after his father dies?  
11. Why does he stop in his quest to find Keiko?  
12. Does he suspect that Ethel helped his father?  
13. What does he decide to do at the end?  
   **Broken Records (1986)**

1. Where does Henry go? How is his visit received?  
2. What does Marty think he should do? What is Henry’s reply?  
3. What does he compare the broken record to?
Hearthstone (1986)
1. Why is Henry in a hurry?
2. What does Sheldon tell Henry to do?
3. What is the broken record a symbol for?

Tickets (1986)
1. Has Henry realized what Sheldon is talking about?
2. What does he ask Bud? His response?
3. What does Henry find on his bed when he gets home? What does it remind him of?
4. Who has arranged the trip and where is it to?
5. Why did Marty do this?
6. How is this time different from the last time someone laid out his clothes for him?

Sheldon’s Song (1986)
1. What is Henry thanked for when he enters Sheldon’s room?
2. Who actually did it and what did she do? Where did she get it?
3. How did Sheldon react to hearing the song?
4. What did Sheldon say to Henry? Does Henry understand now?
5. What are Henry’s last works to Keiko?

New York (1986)
1. Does Henry call before he visits? What does he bring with him?
2. What does Keiko say when she opens the door?
3. What pieces of their past does he find there?
4. What does Henry do with the record?
5. What do they say to each other?