*Collections* Grade 8 Guiding Questions

Collection 1

“Bonne Année” by Jean-Pierre Benoit

Read the personal essay “Bonne Année” by Jean-Pierre Benoit. Then, reread the lines indicated with each question below. Answer each question, citing text evidence.

1. Lines 1–12: What is the connection between the people gathered in New York and the events occurring in Haiti?
2. Lines 24–38: What supporting details does the author provide to explain his reference to “January first”? Which fact tells why January first is important to Haitians? What opinions does the author use to describe the day? What do these details suggest about the central idea of the paragraph?
3. Lines 56–65: What statement is repeated in these lines? What does the author mean by the phrase “no special love”? What is the impact of the repetition of the phrase on the tone of the essay?
4. Lines 72–81: What time clues in these lines explain when Papa Doc’s rule ended and how long he and his son remained in power?
5. Lines 89–98: What insight does the author provide regarding the nature of the Haitian people?
6. Lines 117–122: What is the author’s purpose for including the story about Haiti’s appearance in the soccer tournament? How do you know?
7. Lines 129–134: What details in this paragraph show the important connection Haitian immigrants still have to their homeland?