

Discussion Questions for *Lean on Me*

Some of the major characters to watch for: Principal Joe Clark, Vice Principal Joan Levias, Superintendent Frank Napier, Mayor Don Bottman, community activist Leonna Barrett

1. How would you characterize Joe Clark's leadership style? What are some of the more important results from that leadership?
2. Why do you think Principal Clark got results when his predecessors did not? To what extent might it be because of passion and courage, and what might you learn from that?
3. Although Principal Clark achieved many important results, that does not mean his leadership methods are ideal. What are some examples of this? And how might his leadership style be improved?
4. Where else do we see examples of effective or ineffective leadership in this story? What lesson(s) might we glean from these examples?
5. What do you think of Joe Clark's leadership? And what is the most important lesson that you might take away from this story?