

**Discussion Questions for**  
***WHAT MR. MATTERO DID***

By Priscilla Cummings

**Author's Note: I wish to thank teachers Ricki Robertson and Susan Swanda of Lakeview Middle School in Yukon, Oklahoma for the suggested discussion questions, activities and quizzes on this web site for **WHAT MR. MATTERO DID**. The teachers created this material for use in their English novel unit at Lakeview Middle School in 2006.**

**The material offered includes:**

- Discussion questions
- Novel Notes
- Novel Activities
- Quizzes

**Inner/Outer Circle Questions**  
*What Mr. Mattero Did*

**Level II**

**Describe the relationship shared by Melody and her dad before the lie.**

**If Melody was wrong to tackle Claire, what should Melody have done when she found herself face to face with Claire?**

**In your opinion did Claire have an eating disorder? Why or why not?**

**Twice Claire says, “I wasn’t comfortable being in my own skin.” What does this mean?**

**In the story who proved to be the best kind of friend?**

**Why didn’t Mr. Mattero return to teaching?**

**If you were Mr. Mattero would you return to teach at Oakdale Middle School? Why or why not?**

**Were there good things that resulted from the girls’ lie about Mr. Mattero? If so, talk about them. If not, state why not.**

**How did Mr. Mattero cope with the lies about himself?**

**Who needed to forgive someone in the story and why?**

**Support with story details that Claire was a good big sister.**

**Is Jenna’s mother to blame for Mr. Mattero’s situation? Why or why not?**

**Near the story’s beginning Melody said that she would come to know “many things, good and bad, about my dad. Things that I might otherwise have never known. And, I can say the same about myself.” What did Melody come to know about herself that was bad?**

**How do you imagine Mr. Mattero might respond to the men who pointed out how lucky he was to live in a country where there is freedom of speech?**

**Did Jenna’s mother teach her to lie? Why or why not?**

**Melody said that something inside of her dad died. What did she mean? What died?**

**Support with details from the story the conclusion that the Mattero family lived a modest lifestyle.**

### **Level III**

**Why would hiding a lie be a lot worse than telling the truth?**

**What do you do when someone lies about you?**

**Claire mentions feeling like an “outsider”. At LMS do some students make others feel this way? If so, how?**

**Melody said that their family members “traveled inside ourselves while we waited to see what would happen.” What does this mean? How do you travel inside yourself?**

**Claire’s definition of violence is “any mean look, word, or act that hurts a person’s body, feelings, or things.” Have you ever been a victim of violence? Can you describe it and how it made you feel?**

**After finding her dad drunk, Melody wondered if she thought less of her dad. Do parents deserve to be “thought less of” if they make mistakes? Why/why not?**

**If your family was undergoing a serious problem, would you want to be told? Why or why not?**

**Why kind of secret, entrusted to you by a good friend, is it not OK to keep?**

**What are the qualities of a true friend?**

**Is it OK to lie? Why or why not?**

**Shakespeare wrote, “To thine own self be true.” What does this mean to you?**

**Describe a good teacher.**

**Describe a good parent.**

**What can you do when people believe something untrue about you?**

**How do you forgive someone who has wronged you?**

**Give an example of someone who has made a bad decision that affected them a long time or even the rest of their life.**