Aphasia Book Club

The 100-Year-Old Man who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared

Chapters 1-5

Worksheet A

1. At the bus station, Allan takes the young man’s suitcase with him when he leaves on his bus. Why do you think he does this? How did the young man react? Can you think of a time when you made a similar decision to “seize the moment” like Allan did? (pg.8)
2. Allan apologizes to Julius after the young man finds them and hurts him. However, Julius responds by saying that Allan shouldn’t have to apologize because there was finally a bit of action in Julius’ life (pg.23). Would you have responded in the same way if you were in this situation? Would you have helped a stranger the way Julius helped Allan? Can you relate to Julius’ feelings in this moment?
3. Allan’s story shifts back and forth between recounting past memories and retelling current events. Name some events that have happened in the past, and name a few that Allan is experiencing in the present.
4. When Allan remembers the events of his father and mother’s deaths, he states that his philosophy on life is that “things are what they are, and whatever will be will be” (p.32). Do you agree with this statement? Do Allan’s actions so far in the story support this idea?