Heart of a Samurai fishbowl questions

1. Why does the book include dates according to both the Japanese calendar and the Western calendar?
2. Why is the book separated into five parts?
3. How much of the book is true and how much of it is fiction?
4. How does the language of the book relate to the illustrations in the book?
5. What does the sea represent?
6. What exactly is Manjiro's view of America? How does it develop and change?
7. Why is Jolly so mean to Manjiro? Can Jolly be compared to anyone else that we’ve read about?
8. Has Manjiro really been tainted by the barbarians?
9. Why is Manjiro much more favored than the rest of the group?
10. What were some of the important relationships that were established in the story? Why were they important?