

Discussion Questions for *That Wonderful Mexican Band: a Memoir of the Great Depression* by Thomas P. Ramirez

How do you think Mexican immigrants are treated today? Is it different than the author's experience during the Great Depression?

What did you think about the author starting kindergarten without knowing English? How would it be different today?

Discuss the "bums" and "hobos" of the Great Depression and homeless people today. What's different? What's the same? What are people's attitudes on poverty today?

How is childhood different today? How is discipline handled today? Do children have more or less freedom today? Were you surprised to read about the author's hitchhiking experiences?

The author and his friends and brothers often scavenged items from businesses and alleys. When is this stealing and when is this survival?

Describe the author's relationships with his mother and father. How did being the oldest shape the author's relationships with his parents? What did you think about his parents' lives and hardships?

What would you write about if you wrote a memoir?