

University of Scranton

Royal Reads Program

Reflection Questions for *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle



- What is the goal of Homeboy Industries and how does the organization try to achieve this goal?
- Why does the work of Homeboy Industries progress at such a “slow” rate?
- What is the hardest part of doing gang work in LA for Father Boyle and his staff?
- How successful is Homeboy Industries and Father Boyle at their work?
- In *Tattoos on the Heart* the phrase “No matter whatness” is introduced and used on more than one occasion. What does this phrase mean? How do the people who work at Homeboy Industries “live” this phrase? (Provide examples.)
- As you read through each chapter, reflect on one direct quotation or individual story that you find particularly important or interesting. Why did you select that particular quote or individual story?
- Has this book influenced the way that you see God?
- Has this book influenced the way you see community?
- What did you learn about the feelings of shame among the marginalized?
- According to Father Boyle, what do you think compassion is really about as you reflect on the lives shared in *Tattoos on the Heart*?
- What does Father Boyle say about gladness in Chapter 7?
- How is success defined according to Father Boyle in Chapter 8?
- What is kinship according to Father Boyle in Chapter 9?
- What individual story stood out to you the most in *Tattoos in the Heart*? Why?

Faculty may integrate additional projects, discussions and reflection regarding the selected book title for the Royal Reads Program. Students should look for events related to the Royal Reads Program throughout the year.