***When I Found You***

Book Club Questions

1. What do you think would drive someone to abandon a newborn baby? Why didn’t Nat’s mother, Lenora Bates, seek medical attention after she was arrested? Does the little knit cap found on the child show the humanness of her character despite her actions?
2. Even though it wasn’t like him to put his needs above others, from the moment Nathan found the baby, he knew that this was meant to be. Do you believe this was fate or coincidence?
3. Nat’s grandmother lied to Nat because she thought it was for his own good. Do you agree with this decision? How did this choice ultimately work against her and the boy?
4. Nathan never gives up on Nat. Why do you think he was so determined to “never wash his hands” of the boy? Do you think Nathan’s decision to let Nat go to jail was an extension of his love?
5. Eleanor gives Nathan an ultimatum that he must choose between her or Nat. He tells her, “Nat would never ask me to choose between the two of you.” What is he trying to get her to understand? Did you agree with his reasoning and her choice to leave?
6. The book shows several examples of characters receiving help from someone when they really need it, then passing it along later in life to another person. How do these acts of kindness benefit both the giver and the receiver?
7. Why do you think Nathan chose to invest money in Nat’s boxing career, even though Manny told him that Nat was not good enough to succeed?
8. When Nat finally meets Nathan, he tells him that he didn’t think Nathan did him a very big favor saving him in the woods. How does his thinking shift by the end of the book?
9. How does the fragility of Nathan at the end of his life mirror Nat’s when he was first found in the woods?