Questions for Reflection and Discussion

ne of the best ways to remember information is to share with others what you are learning. Additionally, an effective way to deepen understanding of new concepts is to reflect on how they apply to your daily life and to hear others' perspectives on the same information. To help in this process, we've put together questions you can reflect on or use as a guide to discuss with others who have read the story of Sam and his colleagues.

 What challenges do you face in your workplace relationships? How might authentic appreciation help you deal with your most difficult personnel problems?

SYNC OR SWIM

Which of the characters in the story tended to annoy you the most? Why? How do you relate to individuals in your daily life who are like that character?

 Which of the characters did you most identify with? What qualities do you think you share with them? What in the story challenged you to think about behaviors, thoughts, or attitudes you may want to change?

 Do you find communicating appreciation natural, or do you find it hard? Are there tips in the story or managers' responses that might make it more "doable" for you?

•	Have you ever tried your best to show recognition
	to a group or individual and been rebuffed as Sam
	was? If so, how did you handle it?

What, if anything, about Sam did you admire?
What were characteristics about him that irritated or concerned you? In what ways did you see Sam grow over the course of events?

 Which of Olympia's statements are most helpful for you?

SYNC OR SWIM

•	Which piece of advice from Olympia do you think would be most difficult to implement in your current workplace? Why? What might help overcome these challenges?
•	Are there any of Olympia's suggestions with which you disagree? Explain.
•	Sam would have been justified to give up on Frisco, yet he didn't. What is the balance between too much patience and too little?

•	When looking at the characters who work for Monarch Enterprises, what challenges do you think they would face in building an effective team?
•	If you could pick three of Sam's colleagues to form a core group for a team you would manage, who would you pick and why?
•	What issues do you think Sam should pay attention to and address in the next stage of working with his team?