The Bridges of Ivo Markovic

1. Go to a map of Europe and find the city of Sarajevo. What country is it in?

2. Find the city Zagreb. What country is it in?

3. Why do you think that the author opens the biographical sketch of Ivo Markovic by talking about his habit of going for walks?

4. In the second paragraph we discover what Ivo Markovic believes is a dangerous force. What is it and why is it so dangerous?

5. What does Markovic think can stop the cycle of escalation? Why?

6. Why did his father disagree with the Communist regime?

7. Why was Markovic attracted to the Franciscan monastic order?

8. Why was Markovic so horrified by the men who held his monastery captive in Sarajevo?

9. Did he decide to hate all Serbs (since his captors were Serbs)?

10. When Markovic was released and went home, what did he do to try to stop the fighting?

11. Why did Markovic feel like his job at the Christian Information Service was so important?
12. In 1993, the Bosnian (Muslim) army killed Markovic’s father and destroyed his hometown. Who did he blame and why?

13. Only a few days after he found out his father was dead, Markovic organized a group of Catholics to visit a mosque. What is a mosque? Why might this have been a surprising reaction in light of his father’s death?

14. After the war, Markovic started a choir. What was unique about this choir?

15. What does the *Pontanima* mean?

16. What do you think Markovic means when he says, “Beautiful ideas have to be lived?”

17. Empathy means the ability to identify with another’s situation, feelings, or experiences. Describe two ways that Markovic used empathy.

18. “I simply stopped acknowledging the boundaries that divide people and create phobias, and I felt called to cross those boundaries and to invite others to do so,” explains Markovic. Was his empathy and boundary-crossing successful? What was the reaction of those in other groups?