

The Red Glass

Name _____

Chapters 1 and 2

Chapter One

Writer's Notebook: What do you know about how your ancestors came to the United States? What stories have you heard?

Reading Questions:

1. How old is the narrator?
2. Why did the Border Police call Juan?
3. Where is Aunt Dika from? When did she come to live with Sophie's family?
4. How did Juan come to the United States?
5. What is a foundling?
6. Explain why this little boy scared Sophie (7).
7. Where did the little boy move (to sleep) in the middle of the night?

Chapter One Post Reading Writer's Notebook Entry:

"I always thought of myself as a free-floating one-celled amoeba, minding my own business." (page 9) Is there a point of your life when you felt like this? If so, when? If not, think about the process of fitting in when you are growing up. Was there a time, when it didn't come easily to you?

Chapter Two: MIDNIGHT PARTIES

Writer's notebook entry options: Have you ever given thought to the way Mexican immigrants come to the country? What did you know about it? Do you think that there should be harsher penalties for immigrants who enter the country illegally? Research the issue and write about your findings.

1. How did Juan change Sophie's life?
2. Describe Juan (characterization).
3. Why is the chapter titled, "Midnight parties"? Describe these "parties."
4. What is a Coyote?
5. Why does Sophie think she did not turn out "normal"?
6. In what ways is Sophie affected by her father's departure?
7. How long until Pablo spoke again after his first words to Sophie?
8. What does Pablo's family think will be best for him (21-22)?
9. How did Pablo's presence in the house change the behavior of Sophie's family?

CHAPTER THREE

DIKA'S BOYFRIEND

1. Why is Dika so happy that she is in America? (24-25)
2. Explain why Dika has the small shard of red glass (25)?
3. How does Dika meet her boyfriend?

Chapter Four

The Red Glass

1. What is the plan that Dika announces to the entire family?
2. What irrational fears does Sophie have towards going?
3. What made the family decide to do it?

Chapter Five

1. How did Angel and Sophie already know each other?
2. What does Sophie remember about Angel?
3. Why does Sophie think that Angel is part of an organ rather than an amoeba?

4. Why does Dika carry around the red glass?

5. What did Angel get Pablo to finally do?

6. Why did Angel's mom bury the jewels?

Chapter Six

SILENT FIREWORKS

1. What does Sophie learn about Angel's personality?

2. What did Fanny spray all over the food?

3. We learn why Sophie's father really left, what is the story?

4. Angel said he's "used to dying." What does he say is the reason (53)?

Chapter Seven Questions

Escaping Death

1. Describe Angel's near-death experience.

2. About what do they keep questioning Angel?

3. Angel and Sophie discuss whether or not Pablo will choose to stay with his family. Do you agree with Angel's perspective about "his land"? Why or why not? (5 SENTENCE MINIMUM – writer's notebook entry)

4. Explain why Dika, Angel and his dad all became LEGAL?

5. In what ways does Sophie admire and envy the person Angel is?

6. What does Pablo tell Sophie about his Grandmother's powers?

Chapter EIGHT:

Questions Picnic with a Cop

1. *"The next afternoon, on the fourth day, a huge storm left the sky streaked with orange and yellow, the clouds glowing like gates to heaven. Angel was driving, speeding along, winding around hills, past a huge lake and cornfields."* (62)

Underline the descriptive language. Think about how the imagery created by the author contributes to this adventure motif. Underline the descriptive language.

COMPARE THESE IMAGES TO THE ONES IN SOPHIE'S IMAGINATION...

"I imagined us rotting in a dungeon cell with only amoeba-infested water to drink and no limes to squeeze over unsanitarily prepared morsels of food. My head felt hot and prickly."

Underline the descriptive language.

1. Why is Sophie afraid of "cops"?

2. Compare the behavior of the officer to officers in the United States. In what ways did he break our laws?

3. Why does Sophie say, "For a moment I caught a glimpse of how life could be if the sharks turned out to be dolphins."?

4. Why does Angel believed he was saved by "two women"?

5. Based on the emphasis on Angel's box, describe the conversation around what is in the box on page 72.

CHAPTER NINE

SPARKLES IN THE VIRGIN'S HAIR

1. Sophie describes Mexico city. Write three descriptions (imagery).

2. What indicates that Sophie is a very self conscious person (77-78)?

3. What does Angel say to Sophie that surprises her?

4. Contrast Dika and Sophie (use two descriptions from the text).

5. "In English class, we read a book with a passage I underlined that said when it comes to explaining to other people what's deepest and truest and most important to us, each person is trapped in her own tower and everyone speaks a different language, the only words we share are things like "It's going to rain. Bring an umbrella. How can you express your heart's deepest feelings with words like that?" (82).

AGREE OR DISAGREE . In a few sentences, apply this to your own life. (WRITER'S NOTEBOOK)

6. Based on the above quote, how is this true for Angel on page 83? What do you think he really wanted to say?

CLASS PROJECT

We cannot, as a class, solve the immigration problem, We can, as a class, begin to understand the complexities of this national debate and apply to our understanding of The Red Glass.

Part I. STEPS:

1. Go onto the library databases and click onto CQ Researcher "Opposing Viewpoints in Context."
2. Click "Browse Issues"
3. Click "Illegal Immigrants"
4. Choose an interesting article about immigration. Please make sure the article is an appropriate length. Also, look at where you are getting the information. You will be looking for articles about illegal immigration in the United States.
5. Follow the same steps for article of the week (do not do the vocabulary portion)

Part II. I LOVE this resource. This page gives you a single topic, but provides you with multiple perspectives.

STEPS:

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate>
2. Type in immigration
3. Choose two blogs that you find interesting
4. Print the blogs and follow the steps for article of the week (no vocabulary)

Part III.

Come to class prepared to talk, write and listen. We will be combining our thoughts together and each group will take a stance on immigration. You will not know which stance you have to take. First we have to come up with a list of problem

The Red Glass Personal Research

Interviews:

1. Name _____

Relationship to you _____

Questions: How did my ancestors come to the United States? Why did they come to this country?

Suggestions to further the conversation:

- interesting stories from these people
- did coming to America, live up to their expectations

Interviews:

2. Name _____

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