1. Why is it important for the reader to know that Papi got a gift from an American consul?

2. What is Papi’s perspective towards the dog? What does it symbolize?

3-5. List three \*actions\* that show the mother’s feelings towards the dog. (characterization!)

6-7. Identify two idioms.

8. “All liberty involves sacrifice” (line 53). What are they sacrificing?

9. Mami replies, “I told you I don’t want trouble—.” How? With whom? Alvarez employs the art of implication with finesse to build suspense.

10. “the one she was going to give away to the Haitians.” What belief is revealed in this parental threat?

11-12. Contrast the relationship Julia has with her father and her mother.

13-15. List three “adjective-noun” pairs that paint a picture outside of her house.

16. How did Mami’s interactions with Julia change as Mami grew more anxious? (It’s ironic.)

17-19. Why are the men talking in code? Where? What can you infer about the situation?

20. Family members said goodbye before Julia actually realized that they were leaving. As an adult writer, Julia Alvarez reveals the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the children as they were the last ones to find out: “Until now, we hadn’t a clue why they were so worked up.” Lucky 13. There’s no question for you. ☺

21. In the paragraph beginning with line 201, Julia affectionately portrays an aunt with humorous undertones. Why is her child-like perspective funny and ironic?

22-23. When does the story shift into present tense. Why?

24. How can liberty be waiting for Julia when she returns to her homeland? (Don’t you appreciate how her stories of anxiety, fear, and confusion always end with hope?)