Socratic Seminar Questions

*Garcia Girls* Section 2

**Section 1 Directions:**

1. Choose **one question from two of the chapters below**.
2. Answer them in your **Reader’s Notebook.**
3. For each question please:
   1. **Integrate at least one quote** from the text. Please use quotation marks to set it off and put the page number in parenthesis after the quote, like this:

As mami says, “Good bulls sire cows” (193).

* 1. **Make a connection** **to something you’ve learned in this class, another class or elsewhere**
  2. **Make a personal connection**

1. Answers should be:
   1. Legibly written
   2. In paragraphs (one or more paragraphs per answer)
   3. Clearly respond to the question posed

**Chapter 6: A Regular Revolution**

1. Why did the girls’ parents want them to return to the island every summer? Why did they not want them to live in the US as adults?
2. How did the girls’ mother view finding the marijuana? What did that symbolize for the mother?
3. Why are the girls so mortified by Sofia’s boyfriend? What do they see happening to their sister? What will this mean in their own lives?
4. When the girls are successful in removing Sofia from the island, what does that mean for Sofia in her future? Did the girls help their sister or hurt her?

**Chapter 7: Daughter of Invention**

1. How were the mother’s inventions an important part of her American life? What does that say about her ambitions for herself?
2. Why aren’t the girls supportive? Why do they not take them seriously?
3. Why is the mother not offended by Yolanda’s speech but the father is?
4. What is the significance of the electric typewriter? What does it mean to Yolanda? To her mother? To her father?

**Chapter 9: Snow**

1. Why did Yolanda like Sister Zoe so much? What did the nun do to make Yolanda feel welcome and important?
2. What did sister Zoe tell the students about the Cuban Missile Crisis? How much description did she give to the kids? Why?
3. What does Yolanda think when she sees snow falling? Where does she get this idea?
4. How does sister Zoe explain what snow is? Why is that explanation important to Yolanda**?**

**Chapter 10: Floor Show**

1. What is important about dinner with the Fannings? Why is it so important to the girls’ parents?
2. What is the significance of the father asking for a cab to go to dinner?
3. How does Mr. Fanning react to his wife’s drinking? What is the reaction of the girls’ mother? Why does she react this way?
4. How does Carla react when is asked by her father to keep a secret about how Mrs. Fanning kissed him?

**Section 2 Directions:**

1. Choose **one question from the Overview Questions below**.
2. Answer it in your **Reader’s Notebook.**
3. Please:
   1. **Integrate at least three quotes** from the text. Please use quotation marks to set them off and put the page number in parenthesis after the quote, like this:

As Mami says, “Good bulls sire cows” (193).

1. Answers should be:
   1. Legibly written
   2. In a paragraph
   3. Clearly respond to the question posed

**Overview Questions:**

1. Discuss the structure of the novel and the extent to which this structure reinforces the theme that immigrant children have difficulties establishing identities. Be sure to consider:
   1. the episodic format
   2. the story’s progression backwards through time
   3. the frequent switch of settings.
2. Discuss how the changes of point of view in the story effect the believability or realism of the characters.
3. Discuss the ways American values conflict with the “old country” values; cite incidents from the story showing how this conflict manifests itself in the adult lives of each of the four daughters.

**Section 3 Directions:**

What questions do you have about the text? These can be questions about themes, characters, events or anything you find confusing. They can also be philosophical questions related to the text (like our discussion last time about what language people love in or what it means to lose one’s accent). **Please write down four or five questions that you can then have ready to ask at the Socratic Seminar.**