

“Mother and Daughter”

Response Questions

1. (p. 128-I) What do the details in the first paragraph tell you about the appearance and personality of Yollie’s mother?
2. (p. 129-I) How do you know that Mrs. Moreno values education?
3. (p. 129-II) What do Mrs. Moreno’s stories about her emigration from Mexico reveal about her?
4. (p. 129-II) How does the author, Gary Soto, bring about a sudden change in the story? What two contrasting phrases does Mr. Soto use to move from Mrs. Moreno’s behavior to the story’s main conflict?
5. (p. 130-I) Why do you think the author tells the story about Mrs. Moreno’s candy apples?
6. (p. 130) Do Yollie and her mother feel the same way about the importance of appearance, or how people look? How do you know?
7. (p. 130-II) How does the author use rich sensory detail in his description of the night? Identify details that appeal to the senses of touch, sight and hearing.
8. (p. 130 to 131-I) What kind of mood, or feeling, does the author establish in this passage? What details in the description set this mood?
9. (p. 132-I) What emotions does Yollie feel when she finds out the dye is running? What clues help you understand how she feels?
10. (p. 132-II) What do Mrs. Moreno’s actions at this point in the story suggest about her?

Summary:

1. Explain whether you sympathize with Yollie or feel she is too self-conscious about her appearance.
2. Do you think Yollie and her mother have a good relationship? Explain your answer.
3. Think about the fairy tale “Cinderella”. How are “Cinderella” and “Mother and Daughter” similar? How are they different?
4. At the end of the story, Mrs. Moreno decides to spend some of the money she has saved for Yollie’s education. Why do you think she does so?

1. (p. 128-I) What do the details in the first paragraph tell you about the appearance and personality of Yollie’s mother?
 - A. A large woman who is very outgoing. [NC (no credit)--This is not a complete sentence.]
 - B. She is large and dresses “loudly”. [Loss of points--This is not a complete answer because the pronoun doesn’t have an antecedent (Who is “she”?) Also, the question asks for “appearance and personality” , and you really only supplied the first.]
 - C. Mrs. Moreno mother is a large woman who dresses loudly. She is also outgoing and friendly. [Acceptable answer--This is brief and concise, but it is also complete. This answer would receive full credit.]
 - D. Yollie’s mother is a large woman, and she dresses and behaves in such a way that people notice her. Her waving to the lowriders shows she is outgoing and friendly. [Good answer— This is a complete answer with good detail to support your conclusions.]

2. (p. 129-I) How do you know that Mrs. Moreno values education?
- A. She encourages Yollie. [Poor answer (possible NC)--(P/A)The pronoun has no antecedent again. “Encourages” does not tell me enough; you need more detail.]
 - B. Mrs. Moreno encourages Yollie to study. [Poor answer--The explanation of “encourages” in this answer is better but not outstanding. It still needs some detail.]
 - C. Mrs. Moreno encourages Yollie to study. Mrs. Moreno buys Yollie a desk, a typewriter and a lamp to help her study. [Good answer--This answer is in complete sentences, and it shows how you came to your conclusion.]
3. (p. 129-II) What do Mrs. Moreno’s stories about her emigration from Mexico reveal about her?
- A. That she faced hunger and hardships. [NC--CS (complete sentence) This is not a complete sentence, and it does not answer the question asked. I need to know what the stories reveal about her, not what the stories are.]
 - B. Mrs. Moreno’s stories show how determined and strong she can be. [Poor answer--You tell me what the stories reveal, but you don’t tell me what the stories are—too little detail.]
 - C. Mrs. Moreno’s stories about enduring hunger and other hardships while crossing the border show how strong-willed and determined she can be. [Better answer--It is complete and actually answers the question asked.]

4. (p. 129-II) How does the author, Gary Soto, bring about a sudden change in the story? What two contrasting phrases does Mr. Soto use to move from Mrs. Moreno's behavior to the story's main conflict?
- A. Changes it by bringing up a serious subject. [NC--CS & P/A This is not a complete answer.]
 - B. Gary changes the mood of the story by bringing up a serious subject. [Poor answer--You tell me how he brings the change in the story, but you don't tell me what the serious subject is (detail) or what the two contrasting phrases used are. Also, Mr. Soto is not a close personal friend of yours; you should not be referring to him by his first name.]
 - C. Mr. Soto changes the mood of the story by bringing up a serious subject, Yollie's need for a new dress and the Morenos' lack of money. He makes the transition from one subject to another through the repetition of the word "funny"—"she was funny enough" and "But there was nothing funny about...". [Very good answer--This is a complete answer to the question. You gave a specific detail to support your statement, and used quotes from the story well.]
5. (p. 130-I) Why do you think the author tells the story about Mrs. Moreno's candy apples?
- The story about Mrs. Moreno's candy apples shows that she loves and tries to provide fun for her daughter. The story also illustrates how something that seems like a disaster can turn out all right in the end.
6. (p. 130) Do Yollie and her mother feel the same way about the importance of appearance, or how people look? How do you know?

- Mrs. Moreno and Yollie have differing opinions about the importance of appearance. Mrs. Moreno seems to be more concerned with comfort than appearance; that is probably why she wears a muumuu. Yollie appears to be a normal teenager who worries about her appearance and spends a lot of time getting ready for a big event.
7. (p. 130-II) How does the author use rich sensory detail in his description of the night? Identify details that appeal to the senses of touch, sight and hearing.
- Mr. Soto writes his description to appeal to the senses, allowing the reader to feel as if s/he were there. For example, the sense of touch is described in the warm, humid evening and the gusts of wind. The reader can almost see the lanterns swinging and the reds and yellows blurring and can seem to hear the small groups talking, the music playing and the applause.
8. (p. 130 to 131-I) What kind of mood, or feeling, does the author establish in this passage? What details in the description set this mood?
- There is a romantic, tender mood to this passage. Mr. Soto creates this mood with details like: the dancers circling under the lanterns; the sound of the “raindrops ticking against the leaves”; and the touch of Ernie’s shoulder, which feels “warm and tender”.
9. (p. 132-I) What emotions does Yollie feel when she finds out the dye is running? What clues help you understand how she feels?
- Yollie’s actions indicate that she is embarrassed, miserable and angry. Her misery and embarrassment are shown when she thinks her friends will laugh at her dyed dress, she runs away and she cries. Crying might also be evidence of her anger, but

stomping into her room and throwing the dress on the floor are stronger indicators of the anger.

10. (p. 132-II) What do Mrs. Moreno's actions at this point in the story suggest about her?

- Mrs. Moreno leaves her daughter alone and doesn't try to express her sympathy which shows how understanding of her daughter's feelings she is. (I don't think Yollie really wanted to talk at that point.) Mrs. Moreno's sadness and concern for her daughter are evidenced when she cries alone in the living room.

Summary:

1. Explain whether you sympathize with Yollie or feel she is too self-conscious about her appearance.
2. Do you think Yollie and her mother have a good relationship? Explain your answer.
3. Think about the fairy tale "Cinderella". How are "Cinderella" and "Mother and Daughter" similar? How are they different?
4. At the end of the story, Mrs. Moreno decides to spend some of the money she has saved for Yollie's education. Why do you think she does so?

[Any reasonable answer is acceptable. Remember, there isn't necessarily any one right answer to questions like this. The "rightness" of the answer depends on your ability to back it up with logic and supporting details.]