

***The Red Umbrella* by Christina Gonzalez**
Incoming 10th Grade – Summer Literacy

Journal Prompt Directions: Mandatory Assignment

Complete **both** journal prompts. Each journal response must be a *minimum* of 200 words and must be answered in completion.

Journal prompts must be submitted to your 2019-2020 school year English teacher on day 2 of your first academic cycle. Each journal entry is worth (40) points. There will also be a mandatory (20) question multiple choice test on day 2 of your first academic cycle that will be worth (20) points. The combined journal prompt and multiple choice test grade will count as a test grade for first quarter and a late submission will result in a loss of (10) points per day.

1. Identify a passage in *The Red Umbrella* that you consider the most important moment in the novel and discuss why you selected it and how it impacts the novel.
2. At the end of the novel, Lucia says, “I bent down to pick up that beautiful red umbrella. Mama was right. Red stood for strength. The strength of our family” (271). Explain how each member of the Alvarez family exhibits strength throughout the novel. Use specific examples in your response.

Study Guide: Optional Assignment

The following study guide is an optional assignment. Students who complete it may earn up to (10) bonus points to be combined with the journal prompt and multiple choice test score. It should be submitted on day 2 of your first academic cycle to your English teacher with your two journal prompts.

****All students are encouraged to use the Spanish/English glossary at the back of the novel.****

Chapters 1-8

1. What information do Mama and Papa try to hide from the children? Why do you think they do this?
2. What information about the revolution are the children being given at school?
3. Why does Lucia want to join the Jovenes Rebeldes?
4. What is Lucia’s observation at the end of the chapter about Papa’s actions?

Chapters 9-16

1. What does Tio Antonio explain *Patria Poetestad* is?
2. Describe the conflict between Lucia and Ivette.
3. Why does Lucia throw her friendship with Ivette away? Was this necessary?
4. When papa arrives home, he says, “things are going to change for us” (99). Explain two major changes the family needs to make.
5. How does Frankie act once he is separated from his parents?
6. Why is Mama’s red umbrella important?
7. List three changes Frankie and Lucia experience after landing in Florida.

Chapters 17-24

1. Explain what a typical day is like at the girls' facility.
2. Why must Frankie be sent to a new facility? Where will this facility be?
3. Describe Mr. and Mrs. Baxter.
4. How is their food different from that in Cuba?
5. What is Mrs. Baxter's misunderstanding about Tobasco sauce? What does this misunderstanding show?
6. Summarize the phone call between Frankie and Lucia and Mama and Papa.

Chapters 25-37

1. Why does Lucia ask Mrs. Baxter to cut her hair short? Why is this important?
2. Explain what Lucia means when she says, "I'd been on the bus for about five minutes and already I knew who my friends and enemies were going to be" (200).
3. Why does Lucia say she is having a "pity party" (205)?
4. What qualities make Lucia officially a "midlevel girl" (212)?
5. Has Ivette changed since the brigades?
6. Explain two ways Cubans celebrate Christmas Eve differently than Americans.
7. What is one possible reason Papa's visa doesn't get approved?
8. Everyone is nervous waiting for Mama to arrive at the airport. Choose two characters and explain how they are feeling.

Helpful Vocabulary

1. Anti-Revolutionary
2. Brigades
3. Chisel
4. Confide
5. Corruption
6. Fatigues
7. Guru
8. Indoctrinate
9. Industries
10. Intoxicating
11. Mimeograph
12. Obedient
13. Oblivious
14. Perspective
15. Pry
16. Refugee
17. Revolution
18. Socialism
19. Splay
20. Wail