

Week 1 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* is written by
 - a. S.E. Hinton.
 - b. Louisa Luna.
 - c. Julia Alvarez.
 - d. Paul Zindel.

2. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* takes place in
 - a. The Dominican Republic.
 - b. Cuba.
 - c. United States.
 - d. both a & b
 - e. both a & c

3. What genre is the novel written in?
 - a. epic (with focus on the family history)
 - b. epic (focusing on history)
 - c. non-fiction
 - d. historical fiction

4. Yolanda returned to the Dominican Republic to
 - a. embrace her culture.
 - b. enjoy a scenic trip of the coast.
 - c. reconnect with her past.
 - d. see her aunts and cousins.

5. What does Yolanda struggle with once she returns to the island?
- a. She struggles to relate to her family. She is more casual than her cousins and aunts.
 - b. She struggles with the class disparity. She empathizes with the help instead of her aunts
 - c. She struggles with cultural identity. She has lost her language and ability to express herself.
 - d. all of the above
6. *“The hills begin to plane out into a high plateau, and the road widens. Left and right, roadside stands begin appearing. Yolanda keeps an eye out for guavas. Piled high on wooden stands are fruits Yolanda hasn’t seen in years: pinkish-yellow mangos and tamarind pods oozing their rich sap, and small cashew fruits strung on a rope to keep them from bruising each other. Strips of meat, buzzing with flies, hang from the windows of butcher stalls. It is hard to believe the poverty the radio commentators keep talking about. There seems to be plenty here to eat—except for guavas”* (pg. 13). In what ways can poverty be measured?
- a. not enough food to sustain basic caloric needs
 - b. income level versus medium income
 - c. life expectancy
 - d. all of the above
 - e. none of the above
7. *“She has been too frightened to carry out any strategy, but now a road is opening up before her. She clasps her hands on her chest—she can feel her pounding heart—and nods. Then, as if the admission itself loosens her tongue, she begins to speak, English, a few words, of apology at first, then a great flood of explanation”* (pg. 20). Why didn’t Yolanda explain to the men that she needed help?
- a. She could not speak their dialect of Spanish.
 - b. She was not comfortable being “Dominican” outside the safety of her family’s home.
 - c. She didn’t know what was wrong with the car.
 - d. She was afraid of them.

8. What was the conflict between father and Sofia?
- a. Father's desire for tradition (protecting his daughter) versus her desire to be independent and American.
 - b. their inability to communicate
 - c. trust that was severed when father read her mail
 - d. none of the above
9. What is mother trying to convey when she says, "*It is better to be a happy nobody than a sad somebody*"? (pg. 46)
- a. Success is found by pursuing what makes you happy inside.
 - b. It is important to follow your dreams even if no one publically appreciates your work and talent.
 - c. Public figures often lack true fulfillment.
 - d. It is important to do what makes you happy, not what others want you to do.
10. What are the cultural differences that Yolanda experienced in some of her relationships?
- a. She does not understand the sexual revolution in America during the 1960's.
 - b. She does not appreciate the terms or crude nature that men and women use to discuss sex.
 - c. She desires a committed relationship where she is valued.
 - d. all of the above

Week 2 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. *"Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things not just easy and accustomed things."* What does it mean to live a life that is principled?
 - a. Teach others to help themselves.
 - b. Be responsible for yourself.
 - c. Lack moral scruples.
 - d. Be honorable, just, and right-minded.
2. What occurred to convince papa to apply for citizenship in the United States?
 - a. A major hurricane devastated his home town in the Dominican Republic.
 - b. A small revolution in the Dominican Republic convinced him he wanted to stay in the United States.
 - c. The corruption of the political system made him want to return to the United States.
 - d. He no longer related to his family or his cultural roots.
3. What does Sofia want from a relationship with Manuel?
 - a. to have the independence of an "American Woman" and the traditional relationship roles of a Dominican
 - b. to be appreciated
 - c. for Manuel to stop making disparaging comments about her
 - d. the freedom to be herself and follow her educational dreams

4. *“The problem with you girls...the problem boiled down to the fact that they wanted to become Americans and their father—and their mother, too, at first—would have none of it”* (pg. 135). Which word or phrase best describes the underlined phrase above?
- a. blend into the American culture (by dressing and acting more American)
 - b. dissimilate
 - c. assimilate
 - d. modify or change
5. *“She spoke in English when she argued with them. And her English was a mishmash of mixed-up idioms and sayings that showed she was “green behind the ears”* (pg 135). What does the term “idioms” refer too?
- a. the structure of language
 - b. a writing tool that helps explain something
 - c. words used in a special way that may be different than their literal meaning
 - d. special comparison that make writing more creative
6. Why did Carla want to return to the Dominican Republic?
- a. She wanted to be surrounded by people who loved and cared about her.
 - b. She was teased and harassed by her classmates.
 - c. She lacks the “words” to tell others how she is feeling and what is happening in English or in Spanish.
 - d. all of the above
7. Which of the following best summarizes the Cuban Missile crisis?
- a. “Russian missiles were being assembled in Cuba and trained on New York City.”
 - b. Air-raid drills were being held at school so students would know how to react.
 - c. The Russians were threatening a nuclear attack.
 - d. all of the above

8. How does Sister Zoe help Yolanda?
- a. She would tutor Yolanda to help her pronunciation.
 - b. She spent time teaching Yolanda to read and write in English, giving her a “voice.”
 - c. She taught Yolanda that each person was irreplaceable and beautiful.
 - d. all of the above
9. How did Dr. Flanning assist Papa once the family arrived in the U.S.?
- a. He coordinated a fellowship that allowed the Garcia’s to immigrate to America.
 - b. He purchased dolls for the girls.
 - c. He was helping Papa pass his American Medical Test.
 - d. Both A & B
 - e. Both A & C
10. What event led to the Garcia’s departure from the Dominican Republic?
- a. The island was becoming a police state.
 - b. They were losing their freedom to become educated.
 - c. Their rights as citizens were being violated.
 - d. none of the above

Week 3 Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter representing the best answer for each question.

1. A person with integrity will
 - a. be dishonest.
 - b. have high ethical principles and strict morals.
 - c. have a love for life and be responsible.
 - d. be courageous and fight for what they believe in.

2. This novel was written
 - a. chronologically (past to present).
 - b. in reverse chronological order (present to past).
 - c. based on significant events in the authors life.
 - d. in no real order.

3. Why did the home of Dona Charito stand out in the tropics?
 - a. It was built with European influences she learned about while studying abroad.
 - b. It was built in a post war era, and was very minimal.
 - c. She built it to resemble a European Palace.
 - d. none of the above

4. What was the purpose of the art lessons for Sandra?
 - a. to harness some of her energy
 - b. to help her cultivate her natural talent
 - c. to help keep Sandra out of trouble
 - d. all of the above

5. “*Dream on,*’ Chucha said. And now she was laughing. The fat under her uniform jiggled. Her body rocked back and forth. ‘Your head is in the clouds, girl. Watch out for the thunderbolt’ (pg. 260). Chucha is warning Gladys about something that may happen. What literary tool is the author using?
- a. exaggeration
 - b. flashback
 - c. foreshadow
 - d. irony
6. What does Gladys imagine can happen to her in America?
- a. She will be able to save, work hard, and get ahead.
 - b. She will marry a man and be able to live a comfortable life.
 - c. She will be able to pursue her dreams of higher education.
 - d. none of the above
7. What do the trips to New York and FAO Schwartz tell you about the family?
- a. The girls are materialistic.
 - b. The family is very privileged living in a poor country.
 - c. The children do not value the toys they are given.
 - d. The girls do not understand the disparity between their family and the workers who serve them.
8. What does the kitten symbolize in the story, *The Drum*?
- a. Yolanda’s inability to connect with her roots
 - b. the loss of Yolanda’s cultural identity
 - c. the Garcia girls, who were taken from their country and culture and expected to survive in a new land
 - d. none of the above
9. Who narrates *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*?

- a. Yolanda, since she is the oldest child
- b. multiple narrators depending on who is telling the story
- c. Father and mother as they tell their families story
- d. Sandra

10. What is the overall theme or big idea of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*?

- a. how family conflicts can change family dynamics
- b. how immigrant families struggle
- c. the importance of language on a culture
- d. both A & B
- e. both A & C

Character Based Literacy Program Assessment
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents

Assessment Answer Key

Week One

1. C
2. E
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. D

Week Two

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. D
7. A
8. D
9. E
10. A

Week Three

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. E

