

## Homework: Selected Response Questions: *Summer of the Mariposas*, Chapter 13

### (Answers for Teacher Reference)

**Directions:** Reread pages 207–208 in chapter 13 of *Summer of the Mariposas*, and answer the questions below. Then, write a summary of the chapter.

1. What is a theme evident in this excerpt of chapter 13 of *Summer of the Mariposas*?  
(Tip: What do the main characters learn in this chapter?)
  - a. It is best to face our fears on our own, head on, to overcome them.
  - b. Being kind and pure of heart can help people live fuller, more meaningful lives.
  - c. When humans are weak and sinful, supernatural powers are stronger.
  - d. Things are not always as they appear.
2. How is this theme developed in this chapter? What relationship does the theme have to the characters, setting, and plot?
  - a. This theme is developed when the sisters stand side by side, circling around Pita, who has no weapon, in order to protect one another—an act of kindness and purity toward one another.
  - b. This theme is developed when the sisters are unable to defeat the lechuzas until Odilia calls upon Tonantzin who rescues the girls and defeats the evils owls.
  - c. This theme is developed when Delia and Velia leave their other sisters and are then able to find tools to use as weapons. Then, the twins defeat the lechuzas on their own.
  - d. This theme is developed when Odilia feels sorry for the lechuzas, realizes that they were not as evil as they appeared, and wishes that she and her sisters had treated them with respect.
3. Where else in the book has the author developed this theme?
  - a. This theme is also developed when La Llorona warns the girls to be pure of heart and when Cecilia curses and punishes the girls for not being kind and for disrespecting her.
  - b. This theme is also developed when the sisters realize that Chencho is also the chupacabra and that, while he is dangerous, he is also sad and lonely.
  - c. This theme is also developed when Odilia is not sure how to defeat the nagual but is able to summon Tonantzin, who overcomes him.
  - d. This theme is also developed when Odilia repeatedly has to come up with her own plan to keep her sisters safe and must do so alone.

## 4. Write an objective summary of this chapter.

**Be sure your summary includes the following elements:**

- an introduction to the text stating the title,
- the central idea of the chapter,
- a brief synthesis of the main events of the text, and
- a statement of theme (the point or message the author wants you to take away) evident in the chapter.

In chapter 13 of *Summer of the Mariposas*, the five sisters encounter the lechuzas, a coven of demonic owls, but are able to defeat them. After leaving the nagual's cave, Odilia explains to her sisters that they have been under the protection of La Llorona and Tonantzin. The girls remember Teresita's warning about the lechuzas and look for a place to hide for the night. The girls find an old barn, but the owl demons find them there. The lechuzas attack and hurl insults at the girls and tell them they are evil and selfish. When Velia and Delia run out of the barn, Odilia thinks they will be defeated, but the twins return with weapons and the girls stand in a circle to fight off and eventually defeat the lechuzas. On page 207, Odilia repeats, "We stood side by side" as she describes how the sisters defeated the lechuzas, emphasizing the theme being kind and pure of heart can help people live fuller, more meaningful lives.

### Chapter 12 Model Summary for Reference

In chapter 12 of *Summer of the Mariposas*, the five girls are captured by the *nagual* but Tonantzin comes to rescue them and defeat the nagual. When Odilia awakes in the cave, she and her sisters are tied up and the nagual has changed from his donkey form to his warlock form. The nagual is making a potion in a cauldron that will kill the sisters. It will also release the warlock from his curse and allow him to become more powerful. Odilia remembers Teresita's advice to sing the song of the cave but she can't remember it. She spins her earring pendant and calls on Tonantzin. She is then able to wake up her sisters and remember the song of the cave that their mother sang to them. The sisters sing the song together, and the dead butterflies in the cave come to life and create the form of Tonantzin. She causes the nagual to fall into his own potion, which allows the sisters to escape the cave. On page 190, Odilia says that Tonantzin "looked like an Aztec goddess, but her face was that of a Mexican girl, the face of our many friends and cousins, a teenager, like us." This continues to develop the theme "family and culture shapes our identity."