**Question 1**

I personally think the purpose of Harvest of Empire is to tell the story of Latino people in general. It’s so people know that not every Hispanic person is of Mexican decent. Which is coming from a 24-year-old Mexican man. I see this issue in my own personal life where uneducated people assume that every “brown” person is Mexican. The reason people assume that, is because our neighboring country is Mexico. So people automatically group brown people with the closest country that has a lot of brown people. Which is simply not the case and this is where the Harvest of Empire book comes in. Many of the Latino races are mentioned in this book. The two that stuck out to me were the Mexican section and the Puerto Rican section. Partly because we did a presentation on those chapters and because I’m Mexican and I know a lot of Puerto Rican people. The book tells the story of each race and why they decided to come over to the United States. Some people came over due to there being a lot of violence in their home country and some people came over looking for a better life. The book also tells the reader what happens to the different races once they get to United States. In many of the cases the people that immigrated face discrimination and are treated very poorly. Which was really sad to read about because my own parents immigrated over in the 70s. I really like seeing how people struggle when they first arrive to America and make a better life for themselves here in America by working hard. It almost made me shed a tear because my family is not rich and I am working hard to get my degree so I can buy my mom a house. I think Juan González works hard to update this book is because he truly loves what he does. He gets to tell the story of our people and he gets to see our people evolve with his very own eyes. He also updates the book so much because our people are constantly changing and the struggles we have to go through are constantly changing as well. The Trump presidency was a really weird time to be a Latino in the United States. The man in charge of the country was saying that a big majority of your people are drug dealers and bad people in general. So, I think Juan González wants to keep updating the book to keep educating the next generations to come. In a way he’s making a time capsule that will outlive him in history and people will know the name Juan González when he is gone

**Question 2**

For this section I selected chapter 3 that about trying to control Puerto Rico and Cuba. The book talks that after World War 2 the United States began recruiting Latinos for manual labor. Many of the times the Latinos that came over to do this work was the Puerto Rican people. America has had a history of treating Puerto Rico poorly. They took over the island and they did not give Puerto Rico any representation in the government. This in turn made Puerto Rico powerless. Even though Puerto Rico was treated very poorly, many Puerto Ricans still stood by the United States. Eventually things did get better for the people living in Puerto Rico so the United States accomplished their goal of taking complete control of Puerto Rico. Even to this very day the United States still has control over Puerto Rico and I’ve heard rumors of Puerto Rico becoming the 51 state. The United States also wanted to take control of Cuba but that was going to be a lot more challenging. Once Fidel Castro took power he ended the American influence over Puerto Rico. The main point of this chapter was to show how Anglo Americans wanted to take control over Latino countries. In some cases, such as Puerto Rico they succeeded. This led to a mass migration of immigrants fleeing to the United States in search of a better life. Immigrants would come over to the United States to do the work that no one wanted to do. A lot of the times these immigrants would face prejudice and not have the same liberties as their Anglo counter parts. Which is still going on to this day with the presidency of Donald Trump. One of the quotes that I remember vividly is when he says Mexican people are bringing drugs and if I’m not mistaken, he calls Mexican people rapist. The reason Mexican people come over to this country is to work and provide a better life for their families. Sure their may be a couple bad apples here and there but that can be said about everyone. At the end of the day this country has a lot of land that used to be Mexico. Some people say that this country stole this land from Mexico and If I were the United States I would make it easier for Mexican people to become citizens. Since Mexican people contribute so much for this country. If I were the president of Mexico I would not let my best people go over to the United States. I would want my best people in Mexico to make Mexico Great Again.

Question 3

So we actually did a coteaching presentation on these 2 chapter and I was tasked to focus on chapter 4. This chapter focuses on the struggle and migration of the Puerto Rican people. I found it very interesting because this chapter also covers the migration of the authors family Juan Gonzalez. Juan Gonzalez’s left Puerto Rico to escape conflict and to search for a better life. This is almost the exact reason other Latino people leave their country and come over to the United States of America. The Puerto Rican people are very related to the United States now. There is a vast amount of Puerto Rican people in New York now and there is even talks about making Puerto Rico the 51 first state. Now the relationship seems to be more positive as we are embracing Puerto Rican culture in this country. Bad Bunny a Puerto Rican superstar is loved in the United States. This wasn’t always the case in fact when Puerto Rican people immigrated over, they were met with a lot hostility. Chapter 4 of the book talks about life in the barrio. A barrio is a city or town with a high poverty level. So, when Juan Gonzalez’s family first came over, they worked hard jobs just to make ends meet. They often worked as dishwashers or in a factory doing hard labor. If that wasn’t hard enough many Puerto Ricans moved into neighborhoods with poor white people. In this case these white people were often racist Italians. Juan Gonzalez said that some kids formed Puerto Rican gangs for protection from other races. So Puerto Rican people had a hard time when they first immigrated over. Things were not any better once they started to attend schools. The teachers often wanted to Americanize Puerto Rican children and that started by teaching them English. Puerto Rican kids were forced to learn English and some children were forced to repeat a year. Since they had not mastered the language yet. I was taught Spanish first and it is hard trying to learn a new language while everyone speaks it already. So, I could only imagine how hard those Puerto Rican kids had it. Even after all those roadblocks the Gonzalez’s pushed ahead and graduated High School and became successful.

**Question 4**

I chose chapter 13 in the book which talks about the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and the impacts it had on Mexico and Mexican people. This was a deal that was signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States in 1994. It pretty much created a free trade zone along these 3 countries which sounds like a great thing but in reality this had a lot of bad side effects for the Mexican people. Mexico was getting a lot of agricultural products from the United States which wasn’t a bad thing but a lot of the time these agricultural products were far cheaper than anything grown in Mexico. So this caused farmers to try to match the United States prices which was not feasible. This led to a lot of farmers losing their jobs and there was an increase in poverty in Mexico. Mexico signed the NAFTA to try to become a prosperous nation, but the NAFTA seemed to more bad then good. This led to many Mexican farmers looking for work in other fields or even leaving the country all together. Many farmers even immigrated to the United States to search for a better life for themselves and their families. They may have found better paying jobs but often many Mexican immigrants were treated poorly especially in 2016 to 2020. Which I think is unfair since they lost their livelihood to something that was out of their control. They didn’t choose to sign the NAFTA but they sure paid the price. Fixing the NAFTA is a difficult question since the United States is so much richer than Mexico. The United States can afford to produce cheaper goods, but Mexico can’t. So, there will always be some sort of problem when goods are traded over the border. Especially since the value of a dollar is worth so much more in Mexico. Currently one dollar is 18 pesos give or take. So, my only solution is for the United States to not trade goods over to Mexico that Mexico also produces. This is a horrible solution that the United States would never agree to but it’s the best that I can come up with. At least this way the Mexican farmers don’t have to compete with the United States and they can sell their good for what they think is fair. It’s a really hard problem to solve and as a computer scientist I am not fit to solve it.

**Question 5**

Disclaimer I have the eBook so I will include the page numbers that correspond to the eBook. My first quote is “No Hispanic group has contributed more to the nation’s prosperity than Mexicans, yet none makes white America more uneasy about the future (Gonzalez, 276).” I really like this quote because I think it couldn’t be any truer. White Americans can deny it, but this country was founded on immigrant work especially Mexican immigrants. I think giving credit to another group of people is scary to white Americans. Since they pretty much stole this land and the people that they stole it from are building this great nation for them. My next quote really stood out to me when I was first reading this chapter “Your name isn’t Juan, the young teacher told me in first grade, in this country it’s John shall I call you John (Gonzalez, 276).” This was said to Juan Gonzalez, the author of this book. Juan’s family had come over from Puerto Rico and Juan was enrolled in American school. In that class a teacher wanted to change his name and Americanize Juan Gonzalez. This shocked me when I first read this chapter. To think that someone would change a child’s whole identity that fast is just insane to me. I tried to look at it from a positive point of view. Maybe Juan’s teacher wanted to change his name to benefit Juan. So that he could fit in better but that still doesn’t make it right. I don’t think people should be forced to change their identity and forget their whole culture. They call America the melting pot of all cultures, so I think what the teacher was trying to do was wrong even if she did it with good intentions. My next quote is about NAFTA a program that encouraged free trade between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. This program was supposed to benefit these 3 countries but as always, the United States ripped Mexico off. “Meanwhile, the biggest beneficiaries of free trade with Mexico have been foreign multinational corporations, especially those from the United States (Gonzalez, 722).” I picked this quote because it seems that White Americans always try to screw their neighbors down south. Even when the United States have good intentions it always seems to backfire for Mexico. In this case Mexican farmers couldn’t compete with goods that were coming in from the United States. This led to many Mexican farmers losing all their money and moving over to the United States.