Narrative Questions  
**PLEASE WRITE THE ANSWERS UNDER EACH QUESTION IN BOLD OR A LEGIBLE COLOR OTHER THAN BLACK.**

“Only Daughter”

1. What does Cisneros mean when she writes that being an only daughter in a family of six sons “explains everything”? **What Cisneros means is that her situation as the only daughter is directly responsible for defining her as a person up to the point that the narrative was written.**

2. What distinction does Cisneros make in paragraph 2 and 3 between being “the only daughter” and being “*only* a daughter”? **This distinction further identifies the separation she has a woman and sets the stage for the trials and tribulations she will face in life with this stigma.**3. What advantages does Cisneros see in being “the only daughter”? In being “*only* a daughter”? **The advantages Cisneros saw in being “the only daughter” and “only a daughter” was that would contribute to her as a “would-be-writer. It gave her opportunity to imagine and to think. It also gave her the ability to study English without the constant interruptions from her father’s curiosity.**   
4. Why does her father think she has wasted her education? What is her reaction to his opinion? **To her father an education for a woman was good so that she would meet a future husband. Since she had not married after four years in college and two more in graduate school it was a waste. She thinks of it as lucky since was able to major in something “silly like English”.**5. Why is her father’s reaction to her story the “most wonderful” thing that happened to Cisneros that year? **This is a pivotal moment in her eyes since her father finally read an example of her work and liked it to the point that he wanted to get more copies for the rest of the family. It was the Green Eggs and Ham moment when Sam finally ate the green eggs and ham.**6. What is Cisneros’ thesis?

**"I am the only daughter in a family of six sons. That explains everything."**

What incidents and details support this thesis?

**In the second and third paragraph, she explains how being the “only daughter” impacts her isolation and drives her direction as a writer. She then further explains how the expectation from her father and the public dictates her destiny as someone’s wife; even going to college was only to find her future husband.**   
7. Are the episodes in this essay presented in chronological order?

**Yes, the episodes are presented in chronological order**.

8. Cisneros quotes her father several times. What do we learn about him from his words? **What I gathered from her father’s words was that for most of her life he had more interest in his boys rather than his daughter. It was not until very late in life that he developed an appreciate for what she had accomplished.**

“Shooting an Elephant”  
1. Why is Orwell “hated by large numbers of people” in Burma? **The reason that he was “hated” was because he happened to be in a position of authority in an area that was generally anti-European.**

Why does he have mixed feelings toward the Burmese people? **Deep down Orwell thought of imperialism as an “evil thing”. He was also secretly rooting for the Burmese and hated his job, possibly, more than the Burmese themselves.**  
2. Why do the local officials want something done about the elephant?

Why does the crowd want Orwell to shoot the elephant? **The crowd was excited at the prospect of shooting the elephant. They also wanted Orwell to shoot the elephant so that they could have the meat.**  
3. Why does Orwell finally decide to kill the elephant? **He caved to the pressure of the “two thousand wills pressing” him forward.**

What makes him hesitate at first? **When he first saw the elephant, he realized that he should not shoot him because an elephant is worth a lot more alive than dead. He also noticed that the attack of “must” was beginning to wear off.**  
4. Why does Orwell say at the end that he was glad the coolie had been killed? **The coolie being killed half way justified him shooting the elephant.**  
5. What does Orwell’s first paragraph accomplish? **The first paragraph sets up the setting of the narration and also the circumstances leading to the conflict over shooting the elephant.**  
6. The essay includes almost no dialogue. Why do you think Orwell’s voice as narrator is the only one readers hear? Is the absence of dialogue a strength or a weakness? Explain? **This essay really captures the isolation that a European might feel as a person of authority in imperial Burma. This isolation would be heightened even more from the language barrier between him and the locals, so I think the lack of dialogue is a strength. It takes us to a narration directly from his perspective. It would be interesting to read a narration from the perspective of the locals separately.**   
7. Why do you think Orwell devotes so much attention to the elephant’s misery?

**Orwell really did not want to shoot the elephant and the fact that he caved to the expectation of the masses made it even worse.**

“Salvation”  
Write a one to two paragraph summary of this narrative including your feelings and thoughts.

**At first “Salvation” was more of an entertaining revelation of a childhood church moment. It was a similar scene that one might expect from any array of movies that involve a coming of age within the confines of the church. It was a very easy and concise reading to understand.**

**As I thought more about the narrative and read it a couple more times, however, I developed more of bitterness to the situation. I made connections to society as whole. The narration took on a more personal relation to situations in my own life. The narration took on not a simple narration of an event but a call to action: as a society we need to allow our children to grow and be able to make well informed choices.**

“The Money”  
1. Diaz grew up poor. How does he communicate this fact to readers?

**In the first paragraph Diaz makes it apparent that his family is poor by explaining that his father was always losing jobs, they had a big family, and that by chipping dollars to make the remittances “forced our already broke family to live even broker”.**  
2. According to Diaz, why is the money in his mother’s “forbidden stash” different from the money in her purse? To you, does this distinction make sense? Why or why not?

**If one of the kids were to “touch” the stash then they would meet “a violent punishment approaching death”. In a way, the money that was saved in the stash helped justify the family’s departure from Santa Domingo and deep down was taken much more serious than some change in their mother’s purse. I am thinking that by being poor that there probably was not an overabundance of change available to take and the comparison was made more to designate the importance of the “forbidden stash”.**   
3. How did Diaz solve the case of the “Stupid Morons?”

**After meeting with some guys that he had been hanging around with, he had mentioned the robbery and noticed through some nonverbals that they were the crooks. He then gave them the slip and found the money in a mattress at one of the boy’s apartments along with his books. The money was in the exact same envelope.**  
4. What does Diaz mean when he says, “Just two hundred and some dollars and fifteen hundred or so miles-that’s all there was”?

**Diaz was referring to the fact that there was no big reward, no big celebration party. Diaz did not even get a simple thank you for returning the money. So basically life returned to the norm with them being poor and justifying their “diaspora as they had done before the money was stolen.**  
5. Diaz uses a very informal style of writing which is full of slang; however, he also uses words such as *diaspora* and expressions like *Raskolnikov* *glances*.

What does diaspora and Raskolnikov glances mean?

**Within the story the term diaspora is used to compare Diaz’s situation with living in America to Jewish people who live outside of Israel. Raskolnikov, a character from “Crime and Punishment”, kills old woman because he believes he is above good and evil. This description sets an interesting comparison to the “stupid morons” who have committed one of the most serious of crimes that meant “violent punishment approaching death”.**

What does this style of writing tell you about him and about how he sees his audience? **In my opinion, I think that this story is directed at his literary peers. It was a way to tell of his background and at the same time showcase his literary learnings.**

6. This essay does not have a stated thesis.

What is Diaz’s main idea?

**What I got from the story is that what you give is what you get! Karma has a wonderful way of catching up with all of us.**

What do you think the thesis of this essay should be?

**Be careful with your deeds because karma will surely repay you equally.**

7. Does this essay have an informative or a persuasive purpose or is Diaz simply just sharing his memories with the audience? Explain.

**I did not really have any call to action with this narration so I did not notice a persuasive element. I did, however, relate on some levels with my personal experience. This is why I think he had an informative purpose with sharing his memories.**

8. What is a rhetorical question?

**A rhetorical question is made without expecting an answer. Sometimes they are used as sarcasm. Other times they are used to think of the absurd and grandiose. Basically, they make a point.**

Diaz uses rhetorical questions in paragraphs 3, 8 and 10. How would you answer these questions?

**In paragraph 3 Diaz asked, “So What happened?”. I quickly deduced that the money had gone missing.**

**In paragraph 8 Diaz asked, “And this is where it should end, right?”. I see this as sarcasm and knew that there was going to me an interesting follow up to the story.**

**In paragraph 10 Diaz asked, “Where the hell did I get these ideas?”. When Diaz asked this rhetorical question, I thought to myself that I would probably do the same if I was that bad off and found out who stole from my mom.**

“My Mother Never Worked”  
1. What kind of work did Martha Smith do while her children were growing up?

**Martha Smith would probably be labeled by some as a stay-at-home mom but more so she helped her husband run the farm.**

List some of the chores she performed.

* **Raised livestock**
* **Planted and harvested food**
* **Sewed clothes and made bedding**
* **Cooked Food**
* **Milked Cows**

2. Why aren’t Martha Smith’s survivors entitled to a death benefit when their mother dies? **She is not entitled to a death benefit because the government does not define her work as a real job.**  
3. How does the government define *work*?

**The government defines work as something that someone pays taxes on.**  
4. What point is the writer trying to make?

**The point of the story was obviously that her mother did indeed work and that she was disappointed that it was not translated into something that the government recognized as work since she was a crucial part of the farm that helped pay the taxes to the government.**

Why do you suppose her thesis is never explicitly stated?

**In my opinion, the thesis is not explicitly stated in order to get the reader fully immersed into all the work that her mother actually did accomplish before contrasting that with the fact that the government defines her as having never worked.**

5. Smith-Yackel mentions relatively little about her father in this essay? Why do you think she mentions so little about him?

**The point of this essay was to display that woman were not being treated equal and to talk about all her father’s work would be a diversion from this point.**  
6. Is the essay’s title effective? If so, why? If not, what alternate title can you suggest?

**I would say yes, the title is effective because it takes a statement, breaks it down, and then assigns that statement sarcastically to the governmental definition of what work is and that basically work boils down to paying taxes. In reality, you can create work out of thin air. If you have a payroll and taxes are paid, the government would still define it as work.**