

“Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros

Analytical Questions

Choose one question from each group and write a response in your notes. Make sure to reference evidence in your response to each. (This means either paraphrase or directly quote part of the text to support your answer; include the paragraph number of your textual reference.)

You are answering a total of TWO questions.

Group 1 – The characters

1. When Sylvia says the sweater belongs to Rachel, how does Rachel respond? What does this reveal about how Rachel feels about herself?
2. Why does Rachel feel that Mrs. Price is “right”?

Group 2 – The text

1. In paragraph 5, the author stated, “Only today I wish I didn’t have only eleven years rattling inside me like pennies in a tin can.” What do you think this figurative language means and how does it affect the tone of the text?
(Note: In literature, tone is the attitude or approach that the author takes toward the work's central theme or subject. Works of literature can have many different types of tone, such as humorous, solemn (formal, serious), distant, intimate, ironic, arrogant, condescending, sentimental, and so on.)
2. Reread the first four paragraphs and note how many times the author starts a sentence with the word “and”. Why do you think the author make this choice?
3. Identify each time Rachel claims “not mine”. Why do you think the author repeat this refrain throughout the story and how does it affect the overall meaning and tone of the text?
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4. In paragraph 19, count the words that begin with the sentence “My face all hot...” Identify other sentences from paragraphs 14 through 19 that are of similar lengths. Why do you think the author chooses to write such lengthy sentences in paragraphs 14 through 19?