

For full credit, each question must be answered:

- 1) in your own legible handwriting (not typed),
- 2) in blue or black ink,
- 3) with direct quotations from the novel that are properly parenthetically cited and highlighted.

Before reading . . .

1. How does the library of Congress classify this book?
2. What is the significance of Lahiri's **dedication**?
3. Fully explain the significance and **symbolism** of the **epigraph**.

Regarding the text . . .

4. How is this a **bildungsroman** novel (apprenticeship, "coming-of-age")? How does Lahiri's **structure** of 12 chapters reinforce this?

Chapter 1

5. What is the **setting**?
6. What type of **narration** does Lahiri employ?
7. When the audience first meets her, we are told that, ". . . nothing feels normal to Ashima" (6). Cite at least six examples (pp. 1-11) of where her "old" **culture** in India is in conflict with her "new" culture "in a foreign land" (6).
8. What is, ". . . the closest thing [Ashima] had ever experienced to the touch of a man" (8)? **Metaphorically**, what is the effect?
9. Cite the **humor** on p. 10? What is Lahiri's purpose with this **tone** shift?
10. In Cambridge, what has Ashima "come to know" (11) about Ashoke? (Combine this with Lahiri's **direct characterization** on p. 9 to develop a detailed description.)
11. Cite two universal "experiences" found on pp. 11-12.
12. Describe the development of Ashoke's, "ability to read" (12).
13. His mother "was always convinced that her oldest son" would be "reading a book the moment he died" (13). How is this **ironic**?
14. Who is Ghosh and what does he advise Ashoke to do? Cite the quote. (16)
15. What is Ashoke's reply? Compare this with **Emily Dickinson's**, "I never saw a moor."
16. What do we learn in the **flashback** beginning with, "[o]ne day, in the earliest hours of October 20, 1961 . . ." (14)? (Include details of Ashoke's accident, his injuries and the newspaper headline, and examples of Lahiri's use of **aural imagery**.)
17. Explain, "He was born twice in India, and then a third time in America" (22).