

For full credit, each question must be answered:

- In your own legible handwriting (not typed),
- In blue or black ink,
- 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 "ina 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 the 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).