

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **YOUTH: 0 to 6 – DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### *The House of the Scorpion*

Directions: As you read this section, select one discussion question to answer per chapter. You may decide which question you would like to answer; but, by the end of the section, you must have answered at least one Level 3 question. Challenge yourself! Write your responses on a blank sheet of paper. *All responses must be written in complete sentences.*

#### **PRE-READING**

Level 1: Look at the “Contents.” First, translate “la vida nueva.” Then, make a prediction about the novel based off your translation.

Level 2: Look at the “Alacran Family History.” Based off this diagram, develop two inferences about this family. Make sure to include a “because” to support each inference.

Level 3: Look at the “Cast of Characters.” Why do you think the author would include this at the beginning of the novel? How does this list label individuals? How could this labeling influence your opinions of these individuals?

#### **CHAPTER 1: “In the Beginning”**

Level 1: How many droplets of life exist at the beginning? What are these droplets?

Level 2: At the end of the chapter, Eduardo questions whether he is doing the baby a favor by not injecting him with the serum. From this, what can you predict about the future life of the child?

Level 3: The scientists never use the term “baby” when discussing the droplets. Why do you think this is? What does this suggest about how this community views human life?

#### **CHAPTER 2: “The Little House in the Poppy Fields”**

Level 1: Who is Celia? Describe her relationship with Matt.

Level 2: Identified two “labels” that are given to individuals throughout the chapter. Is each label positive or negative? What causes each label to be given?

Level 3: On page 10, the girl and the boy discuss their differing opinions about Celia’s privacy. What does this conversation suggest about the influence of upbringing on one’s own beliefs? Do you agree or disagree with this suggestion?

#### **CHAPTER 3: “Property of the Alacran Estate”**

Level 1: What is the meaning of the words printed on Matt’s foot?

Level 2: How is Maria instrumental in Matt’s decision to escape the cottage? What does this reveal about Matt as a character?

Level 3: How does the author want the reader to feel about Matt? Identify three pieces of textual evidence to support your answer.

## **CHAPTER 4: “Maria”**

Level 1: Who is Rosa? Identify three character traits that describe her character.

Level 2: When Emilia and Steven first met Matt, they referred to him with the pronoun “he.” After identifying Matt as a clone, they refer to him with the pronoun “it.” Why is this shift in usage so important?

Level 3: Contrast Maria’s reaction to Matt with the reactions of other characters in the novel. Why do you think Maria sees Matt differently?

## **Chapter 5: “Prison”**

Level 1: Identify three of Matt’s survival techniques.

Level 2: Identify three steps Rosa takes to dehumanize Matt. Which of these do you think is the most humiliating and why?

Level 3: How is Matt beginning to change as a character? What is causing him to change? What does this suggest about the influence of one’s environment on his development as an individual?