

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

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

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## READING GUIDE: PRE-READING

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*The House of the Scorpion*

### **PART A. "CONTENTS"**

Directions: Turn to the "Contents" section provided at the beginning of the book. Using the information in this section, complete the questions below. All answers should be THOROUGH, EIGHTH-GRADE responses (complete and detailed sentences).

Q #1 Look at the titles of the bolded sub-sections. How are the age classifications different than the ones used in our society? In other words, what ages would you associate with each of the bolded sub-sections.

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Q#2 Based off these titles and age classifications, form two inferences about the society. Use the sentence frame "I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

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Q#3 What does "LA VIDA NUEVA" mean? (You will need to translate this.)

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Q#4 Based off this translation, what do you think happens after AGE 14? Make two predictions. Use the sentence frame "I predict \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

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Q#5 Look at the titles of the chapters under each bolded sub-section. Select one chapter title that stands out to you the most. Why does this chapter title stand out to you the most?

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Q#6 Make one prediction about what you think could happen during this chapter. Use the sentence frame "I predict \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

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**PART B. "ALACRÁN FAMILY HISTORY"**

Directions: Turn to the "Alacrán Family History" section provided at the beginning of the book. Using the information in this section, complete the questions below. All answers should be THOROUGH, EIGHTH-GRADE responses (complete and detailed sentences).

Q#1 What happened to Matteo Alacrán's (El Patrón) seven brothers and sisters?

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Q#2 Based off this information, what can you infer about Matteo Alacrán (El Patrón)? Use the sentence frame "I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

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Q#3 What happened to Matteo Alacrán's (El Patrón) wife (Graciela)?

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Q#4 Based off this information, what can you infer about Matteo Alacrán (El Patrón)? Use the sentence frame "I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

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Q#5 What happened to Matteo Alacrán's (El Patrón) four children?

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Q#6 Based off this information, what can you infer about Matteo Alacrán (El Patrón)? Use the sentence frame “I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Q#7 What happened to the two children of Felipe Alacrán and Helga?

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Q#8 Based off this information, what can you infer about the society in which this novel takes place? Use the sentence frame “I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Q#9 Justin Alacrán (Mr. Alacrán) and Felicia are married with two children (Benito and Steven). But, Felicia also has a child (Tom) with Angus MacGregor. Based off this information, make a prediction about a future conflict in the novel. Use the sentence frame “I predict \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Q#10 What is the relationship of Matteo Alacrán (El Patrón) to Benito, Steven, and Tom?

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Q#11 Based off this relationship, how old do you think Matteo Alacrán (El Patrón) is? \_\_\_\_\_

**PART C. “CAST OF CHARACTERS”**

Directions: Turn to the “Cast of Characters” section provided at the beginning of the book. Using the information in this section, complete the questions below. All answers should be THOROUGH, EIGHTH-GRADE responses (complete and detailed sentences).

Q#1 Look at the sub sections of the “Cast of Characters.” Based off these titles, make two inferences about the society in which the book takes place. Use the sentence frame “I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Q#2 Read the description of TAM LIN and DAFT DONALD under “Slaves and Servants.” Based off their classifications, make an inference about El Patron. Use the sentence frame “I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Q#3 Read the description of EEJITS under “Miscellaneous Characters.” Based off this classification, make an inference about the society in which this book takes place. Use the sentence frame “I infer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”

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Q#4 Why do you think the author decided to place this “Cast of Characters” list at the beginning of the book? Identify three potential reasons.

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Q#5 How could the descriptions within the “Cast of Characters” influence your opinions of the characters in the book? Give two specific examples.

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