1. How does Lahiri’s use of parallel plots help us understand the nuances of immigrant identity?

2. Lahiri strategically uses the first-person POV of 10-year-old Lilia. How does this POV help us understand how the meaning of social identities are constructed and communicated?

3. Write a claim about each characters’ views on assimilation and Lilia’s priorities via their conversations about education?

a. Lilia’s Father - pg. 26-27

b. Lilia’s Mother - pgs. 26-27

c. Mrs. Kenyon - pg. 33

4. How is the American Education system portrayed in this story? How is it a metaphor for Americanism?

5. Analyze the irony of this quotation on unity. Use the story’s description of partition to inform your response: "Most of all I remember the three of them operating during that time as if they were a single person, sharing a single meal, a single body, a single silence, and a single fear”(Lahiri 41).

6. Identify three quotations that exemplify how Lilia’s parents preserve their Indian culture in America.

7. Food symbolism

a. Candy ritual / sandalbox prayers

b. Pumpkin carving and smashing (pgs. 34-36, 40)

c. Boiled eggs and rice (pg. 40)