**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Close Reading Practice-**

The following are passages from the two stories we have read. Read each passage and look for the items as directed.

“I always win cause I’m the best,” I say straight at Gretchen who is, as far as I’m concerned, the only one talking in this ventrilo-quist-dummy routine. Gretchen smiles, but it’s not a smile, and I’m thinking that girls never really smile at each other because they don’t know how and don’t want to know how and there’s probably no one to teach us how, cause grown-up girls don’t know either. Then they all look at Raymond who has just brought his mule team to a standstill. And they’re about to see what trouble they can get into through him.

“What grade you in now, Raymond?”

“You got anything to say to my brother, you say it to me, Mary Louise Williams of Raggedy Town, Baltimore.”

“What are you, his mother?” sasses Rosie.

“That’s right, Fatso. And the next word out of anybody and I’ll be their mother too.” So they just stand there and Gretchen shifts from one leg to the other and so do they. Then Gretchen puts her hands on her hips and is about to say something with her freckle-face self but doesn’t. Then she walks around me looking me up and down but keeps walking up Broadway, and her sidekicks follow her. So me and Raymond smile at each other and he says, “Gidyap” to his team and I continue with my breathing exercises, strolling down Broadway toward the ice man on 145th with not a care in the world cause I am Miss Quicksilver herself.

1. Underline the **allusion** that is made in this section. Describe what this allusion tells us about the character.   
   This tells me that Squeaky is….(you finish it!)

2. Circle an example of a **denunciation** that is made in this passage.

3. Highlight something that Squeaky says that reveals something about her personality. Describe what this (what you highlighted) reveals about her personality.

This tells me that she is very confident.

4. Put a bracket around an example of an “external conflict.”

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“In first place . . .” the man on the loudspeaker is clear as a bell now. But then he pauses and the loudspeaker starts to whine. Then static. And I lean down to catch my breath and here comes Gretchen walking back, for she’s overshot the finish line too, huffing and puffing with her hands on her hips taking it slow, breathing in steady time like a real pro and I sort of like her a little for the first time. “In first place . . .” and then three or four voices get all mixed up on the loudspeaker and I dig my sneaker into the grass and stare at Gretchen who’s staring back, we both wondering just who did win. I can hear old Beanstalk arguing with the man on the loudspeaker and then a few others running their mouths about what the stopwatches say. Then I hear Raymond yanking at the fence to call me and I wave to shush him, but he keeps rattling the fence like a gorilla in a cage like in them gorilla movies, but then like a dancer or something he starts climbing up nice and easy but very fast. And it occurs to me, watching how smoothly he climbs hand over hand and remembering how he looked running with his arms down to his side and with the wind pulling his mouth back and his teeth showing and all, it occurred to me that Raymond would make a very fine runner. Doesn’t he always keep up with me on my trots? And he surely knows how to breathe in counts of seven cause he’s always doing it at the dinner table, which drives my brother George up the wall. And I’m smiling to beat the band cause if I’ve lost this race, or if me and Gretchen tied, or even if I’ve won, I can always retire as a runner and begin a whole new career as a coach with Raymond as my champion. After all, with a little more study I can beat Cynthia and her phony self at the spelling bee. And if I bugged my mother, I could get piano lessons and become a star. And I have a big rep as the baddest thing around. And I’ve got a roomful of ribbons and medals and awards. But what has Raymond got to call his own?

1. Underline the simile that is used to describe a character’s actions.

2. Highlight the portion of the text where the narrator has a “sudden thought” or “realization.” What is this realization?

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Abuelo starts talking in his slow way. He speaks what my mother calls book English. He taught himself from a dictionary, and his words sound stiff, like he’s sounding them out in his head before he says them. With his children he speaks Spanish, and that funny book English with us grandchildren. I’m surprised that he’s still so sharp, because his body is shrinking like a crumpled-up brown paper sack with some bones in it. But I can see from looking into his eyes that the light is still on in there.

“It is a short story, Arturo. The story of my life. It will not take very much time to read it.”

“I have time, Abuelo.” I’m a little embarrassed that he saw me looking at my watch.

“Yes, hijo. You have spoken the truth. La verdad. You have much time.”

1. Underline the simile in this passage. State what this tells us about the character.

He is “weak”/ his body is worn out

2. Place a bracket around the portion of the passage where the narrator talks about “time.”

Describe what you think this tells us. Arturo has more time more than his grandfather.

3. Explain how this concept of “time” is a metaphor. Why does the narrator have time? Time is a “metaphor” for the years in his life- the narrator is young

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Abuelo then puts the notebook down on his lap and closes his eyes.

“Asi es la vida is the title of my book,” he says in a whisper, almost to himself. Maybe he’s forgotten that I’m there.

For a long time he doesn’t say anything else. I think that he’s sleeping, but then I see that he’s watching me through half-closed lids, maybe waiting for my opinion of his writing. I’m trying to think of something nice to say. I liked it and all, but not the title. And I think that he could’ve been a teacher if he had wanted to bad enough. Nobody is going to stop me from doing what I want with my life. I’m not going to let la vida get in my way. I want to discuss this with him, but the words are not coming into my head in Spanish just yet. I’m about to ask him why he didn’t keep fighting to make his dream come true, when an old lady in hot-pink running shoes sort of appears at the door.

1. Underline a conflict that is stated in this passage. List and explain the type of conflict.

2. Circle a portion of the text where it appears that a character may be feeling **wistful.** Explain why he or she may be “wistful.”

**II. Thinking About Theme-**

Choose ONE of the stories we have read. Record the “lesson” that we learn from the story. (Think about what the story tells us about relationships. ) Then, write down TWO quotes or lines from the text that support this lesson.

Name of Story \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Raymond’s Run\_\_\_\_/ An Hour with Abuelo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme From Story | Text Evidence (2 quotes or lines) |
|  |  |