*The Distance Between Us* Study Guide

1. Reyna is two years old when her father leaves Iguala for El Otro Lado (the other side). Do you think his reasons justify leaving the small family behind?
2. Make a chart with two columns: compare (like) and contrast (different)on a separate piece of paper and compare and contrast the two grandmothers, their attitudes and behaviors towards their grandchildren. Which grandmother do you think the children are better off living with? Justify your answers in the column. Attach the chart to this paper when you turn it in.
3. When Reyna turns four, her father sends for her mother insisting that she leave the children with his mother. In 3-sentences, what do you think about this?
4. What does “The Man Behind the Glass” symbolize to Reyna?
5. Why do you think Elida could not get along with Reyna and her siblings?
   1. Do you think her behavior towards her first cousins is justified? Why or why not.
6. Tia Emperatriz time and time again comes to the aid of the children. Do you think she could have done more for the three siblings? Explain.
7. What is Reyna’s relationship with her sister Mago?
   1. Why does Mago feel such a responsibility for Reyna?
8. Despite the hardships growing up in Iguala, do you think the children would have been better off living with their parents?
   1. Or, do you think despite the children’s hardships coming to the USA was better?
9. As the story progresses, what do you think about Reyna’s mother? Support your answer with the text.
10. Despite the family’s harrowing journey to the USA, is life better for them once they reach the USA? Support your answer with the text.
11. What is the turning point for Reyna and education?
    1. Why do you think others, including at BHS, do not try harder to take advantages of an American education?
12. Despite all, the father sees the value in an American education. What do you think about the fact that he supports Mago and Carlos (who disappoint him), but he does not help Reyna?
    1. Why does he do this?
13. How does Reyna endure to find a better life in the USA?