

Name: _____

Date: _____

LA VIDA NUEVA: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The House of the Scorpion

Directions: You will respond to the following discussion questions on a separate sheet of paper. Your responses should be thorough, eighth-grade responses. All responses must be in complete sentences. All responses must include TEXTUAL EVIDENCE.

CHAPTER 26: "THE LOST BOYS"

When Matt is walking around the work room, what advice does he remember from El Patron? What does Matt's using of this advice suggest about his connection to El Patron? As a reader, how do you predict this connection will influence Matt in the future?

CHAPTER 27: "A FIVE-LEGGED HORSE"

Explain the concept of why individualism is like a five-legged horse. What lesson are the boys supposed to learn from this comparison? What does this lesson reveal about the values of this society?

CHAPTER 28: "THE PLANKTON FACTORY"

What does Carlos reveal happened to the Gulf of California? What does this suggest about the society's treatment of the environment? What does this suggest about the society's values and priorities?

CHAPTER 29: "WASHING A DUSTY MIND"

After Matt receives his accusations from the other boys, he hears "a host of voices." First, identify each voice he hears and *simply* state what he hears from each. Consider the ordering of the voices from first to last. Why is this ordering significant? In other words, consider what it reveals about his relationship with and influence from each individual.

CHAPTER 30: "WHEN THE WHALES LOST THEIR LEGS"

Why does Matt finally decide to "confess" to the Keepers? Based off this, what can you infer about Matt's character? Then, explain what plot point this previously connects to.

CHAPTER 31: "TON-TON"

Ton-Ton and Luna discuss the role of a Keeper. How does one become a Keeper, and what are the privileges enjoyed by the Keepers? Then, what problem does Matt point out about this? What do you think the answer to Matt's identified problem is?

CHAPTER 32: "FOUND OUT"

What does Jorge reveal about Matt that causes the rebellion to "go out" of all the boys? What do you predict about how the boys will now treat Matt after learning this information?

CHAPTER 33: "THE BONEYARD"

How do the things that Matt learned from Tam Lin help him to stay calm in the midst of the creatures and uncertainty of the bone yard?

CHAPTER 34: "THE SHRIMP HARVESTER"

Compare and contrast the relationship that Ton-Ton had with Jorge to the relationship Matt had with El Patron.

CHAPTER 35: "EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS"

How does the celebration of *El dia de los muertos* differ from El Patron's view of death?

CHAPTER 36: "THE CASTLE ON THE HILL"

What is the internal battle that reoccurs, for a moment, in this chapter regarding Matt's feelings towards El Patron's death?

CHAPTER 37: "HOMECOMING"

Explain how Esperanza claims that Matt has "always been human."

CHAPTER 38: "THE HOUSE OF ETERNITY"

Explain the process of how Tam Lin's metaphor of El Patron's "Dragon Hoard" became a reality for everyone that "belonged" to him.