

Name: _____ Block: _____ Due: 10/27

We Were Here by Matt De La Pena

Directions: Please answer the following questions to help you prepare for the literary analysis. You may handwrite or type your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Please make sure to write in complete, correct sentences using details and text support in your answers.

1. Miguel raises a serious question for counselors in group homes: “You really think a punk-a** place like this could make a kid better?” (p. 14) What is Miguel inferring about the other residents and the care given in a group home? What do you think about group homes for kids who have committed crimes?
2. Miguel repeatedly asks himself, “Shouldn’t I have to pay for what I did? Shouldn’t I have to suffer somehow?” What do you think would be the best punishment for someone in Miguel’s position? How do you think **justice** could be served?
3. What similarities and differences do you find between Miguel, Yummy and even Adnan in the way they are treated and respond to different types of “justice”?
4. Mong’s cousin Mei-li wonders, “If growing up isn’t the saddest thing that can happen to a person” (p.89). How are Miguel, Adnan, and Yummy forced to grow up too quickly? Do you believe that they chose to enter the adult world too quickly, or were they forced to enter this world?
5. Mong’s lack of fear enables him to commit suicide. Yummy, Miguel, and Adnan all live in fear of something. What does each character fear? Are they ever able to overcome this fear?