

Guiding Questions for Readers
Geographies of Home by Loida Maritza Pérez

- How do Iliana, Marina and Rebeca deal with or negotiate their identities as *dominicanas* who are in some ways, “de aquí, y de allá” (from here United States, and there Dominican Republic)?
- How is Dominican identity described in the novel? What is particularly, “Dominican” about these characters and their stories?
- Displacement and alienation come up in the novel many times. At what moments do these themes come up? How do they play out?
- How does the novel offer us an understanding of what it means to be displaced? What does it mean to belong?
- What is home for these characters? How is “home” understood when it is constant chaos? Is home comfort when it is chaotic? Is the chaotic familiarity that makes it “home” for these characters?
- How does the novel encourage us to think about what home is? What characterizes it?
- What is the role of memory in the novel? What causes characters to remember? How does the author create space in the novel for memories?
- How does anti-blackness appear in the novel? How does the author portray these moments?
- Are there moments of liberation in the novel? If so, from what, when and how?
- What is the relationship between the women like in the family, and what do we make of it?
- What is Papito’s role in the family? How would you describe it?
- How is Marina coping with having been raped?
- What is about Rebeca’s way of thinking that influences her actions or lack thereof?
- How is Dominican womanhood represented in the text?
- What is the role that spirituality and religion play in the novel?
- The novel portrays the realness of generational trauma, silence, and how migration affects different family members differently. What would you say is the “geography” (i.e. physical features, atmosphere, and human activity) of feelings, emotions, and/or affect that this novel creates for you after reading it? What would a map of these feelings or affect look like or be arranged? This is of course more of a visual thinking kind of question that can lead you to map out those feelings/themes on paper.