

Name:

Tree Girl
Study Questions

DIRECTIONS: Please answer all questions as completely as possible.

Chapter 1 (pages 1-14)

1. What is a canton?

2. What is Gabi's nickname?

3. What is a quinceanera?

4. Who are Gabi's people? (page 4)

5. What happens to Gabi when she is weaving her huipil and how does she get away?

6. Why do Gabi's parents send her to school rather than Jorge?

7. What is coming to their country?

Chapter 2 (pages 15-29)

8. Why don't the people of the canton help the military or the guerillas?

9. Who is Manuel Quispe?

10. What interrupts Gabi's quinceanera?

Chapter 3 (pages 31-48)

11. Why do the soldiers club Jorge? What do they do to him after?

12. Who are co-op men?

13. What does Papi say is worth fighting for?
14. Who supplies the soldiers' new rifles?
15. Why do the soldiers kill Indios who can speak Spanish?

Chapter 4 (pages 49-68)

16. What do the soldiers ask Papi for to prove he owns the land?
When he can't produce it, what do the soldiers tell him?
17. What do the people of the canton decide to do about the soldier's orders?
18. Why does the military take away the machetes from the villagers?
19. Who dies in this chapter?
20. What is the promise Papi asks Gabriela to make?

Chapter 5 (pages 69-82)

21. Why does Gabriela think Manuel is "the bravest man I had ever known" (78)?
22. What happens to Manuel in this chapter? Why does this happen to him?
23. What happens to the children in this chapter? Why does this happen to them?
24. How does Gabriela escape?

Chapter 6 (pages 83-92)

25. What horrible stories were whispered in the marketplace?
26. What is 'genocide' and what kind of genocide is taking place in this novel?

27. What happens to Gabriela's family in this chapter?
28. What is the one physical object that Gabriela has left from her family?
29. As Gabriela flees the canton toward the border of Mexico, who does she run into hiding in the bushes?

Chapter 7 (pages 93-104)

30. Why is Gabriela so proud of Antonio?
31. What happens to Antonio in this chapter?

Chapter 8 (pages 105-123)

32. What does Gabriela help the woman on the path with?
33. What happens in the pueblo and how does Gabriela escape?

Chapter 9 (pages 126-138)

34. The soldiers tell the people in the pueblo that they are taking a census. What is a census? Is this really the purpose of the soldiers visit? If not, what is their purpose for being there?
35. What do the soldiers do to the women in the pueblo?
36. What is the fire used for in this chapter?
37. What did the soldiers do with the teeth of the dead bodies? Why would they do this?
38. What do the soldiers do to the elderly women in the pueblo?
39. Why does Gabriela think of herself as a coward?
40. What does Gabriela promise herself?

Chapter 10 (pages 139-153)

41. When Gabriela goes back for the baby and Alicia, what does she discover?
42. What does Gabriela mean when she thinks, "I isolated myself from everybody, carrying on my back the burden of shame for having survived when so many others had had the courage to die" (144)?
43. "The passing of each day found the refugees farther from the danger of soldiers, but new enemies arrived...."(148). What new enemies arrived for the refugees?
44. At the end of this chapter, Gabriela finds the refugee camp. What do the guards tell her? What country is she in now?

Chapter 11 (pages 153-169)

45. What is the name of the refugee camp Gabriela finds?
46. What are the refugees using for shelter?
47. What happens the first time Gabriela watches the water being given to the refugees?
48. How do the refugees get new clothes in the camp?
49. After fighting to get a tarp for shelter, Gabriela feels shameful. Why does she feel this way and what does she do as a result of this feeling?

Chapter 12 (pages 173-182)

50. What is the one thing the refugees in the San Miguel camp need most of all? What did the refugees do when they did not get it?
51. Who are the coyotes?
52. To what extent does Mario claim the United States is to blame for the crisis that is going on in Guatemala and in the refugee camps?

53. Who dies in this chapter? What do you suspect is the cause of death?

54. Who arrives at the refugee camp at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 13 (pages 183-196)

55. Why does Carmen tell Gabriela, "Kindness can kill you in this place" (186)?

56. Why do they name the baby "Milagro"?

57. What does Gabriela use to get the children to feel better about their horrible living conditions?

Chapter 14 (pages 197-208)

58. What happened to Mario's brother Edgar? (Be specific)

59. What do Gabriela and Mario decide to do for the children in the refugee camp?

60. How does Mario gain the trust of the children?

61. What news does Mario give Gabriela at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 15 (209-225)

62. Where is Mario going? Why is he doing this?

63. When Mario leaves, what does Gabriela do? Why does she make this decision?

64. What does Gabriela do in this chapter that changes her?

65. Why, according to Gabriela, are Tree Girls special?

66. At the end of the novel, where do Gabriela and Alicia decide to go?

76. According to Gabriela, climbing trees takes one closer to heaven. Why is this statement important to the overall theme of the book?