

NAME:

TITLE OF TEXT: "The Smallest Woman in the World" by Clarice Lispector

DIRECTIONS: Generate two paragraph length discussion questions about the reading, due Tuesday 4/2.

Question One:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
unique insight; specific and detailed (includes citations); embraces complexity; clear understanding; evidence of abstract thought; engages big ideas	valuable insight; specific and detailed (includes citations); embraces complexity to some degree; clear understanding; evidence of abstract thought; engages big ideas	valuable insight; reasonably specific and detailed (includes citations); embraces complexity to some degree; clear understanding; evidence of abstract thought; engages something important	reasonably valuable insight; less specific and detailed; embraces complexity to some degree; (at least) mostly clear understanding; some evidence of abstract thought; engages something important; the best score a question can receive w/out citations	less insightful; less specific and detailed; less complex; (at least) mostly clear understanding; some evidence of abstract thought; engages something that is reasonably important; the highest score a question can receive without evidence from the text	honest attempt to do the above but is problematic in one or more of the following: insight, specificity, oversimplified, understanding, abstract thinking, focus on what is important	serious problems with one or more of the following: insight, specificity, oversimplified, understanding, abstract thinking, focus on what is important, OR factual questions	nonsensical question that nonetheless demonstrates some engagement with the text	no credit: garbage, cheating, etc.

Student example from Ben Okri's "When the Lights Return":

During his journey to visit Maria, Ede is confronted by growing signs of her mysterious, ethereal-like nature. While it begins with the protagonist mistaking a "blind woman with milky eyes" (10) for his love-interest, eventually he begins to see her "everywhere", on both the "eyes" and "faces" (16) of other women across the city, which the protagonist merely dismisses while continuing to move forward. After visiting her residence, this strange power is cemented by Ede now seeing his departed romantic partner on the city's "cats", "dogs", and "owls" (25), culminating with Maria directly appearing in front of him before transforming into a "midget-girl, with an old body" (27). What do these occurrences and Ede's responses imply about the nature of Maria and the persona of the protagonist?

What I like about this question:

- It engages an important interpretive point to understanding the end of the story.
- The evidence is well-integrated and includes both quotation and parenthetical citation.
- The question focuses on a problem or paradox in the text. This is important because, first, it demonstrates active reading on the part of the questioner, and second, unreconciled issues in the text that require interpretation are typically one of the most fruitful areas of potential analysis to understand the author's intent.

Question Two:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>unique insight; specific and detailed (includes citations); embraces complexity; clear understanding; evidence of abstract thought; engages big ideas</p>	<p>valuable insight; specific and detailed (includes citations); embraces complexity to some degree; clear understanding; evidence of abstract thought; engages big ideas</p>	<p>valuable insight; reasonably specific and detailed (includes citations); embraces complexity to some degree; clear understanding; evidence of abstract thought; engages something important</p>	<p>reasonably valuable insight; less specific and detailed; embraces complexity to some degree; (at least) mostly clear understanding; some evidence of abstract thought; engages something important; the best score a question can receive w/out citations</p>	<p>less insightful; less specific and detailed; less complex; (at least) mostly clear understanding; some evidence of abstract thought; engages something that is reasonably important; the highest score a question can receive without evidence from the text</p>	<p>honest attempt to do the above but is problematic in one or more of the following: insight, specificity, oversimplified, understanding, abstract thinking, focus on what is important</p>	<p>serious problems with one or more of the following: insight, specificity, oversimplified, understanding, abstract thinking, focus on what is important, OR factual questions</p>	<p>nonsensical question that nonetheless demonstrates some engagement with the text</p>	<p>no credit: garbage, cheating, etc.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> on time	<input type="checkbox"/> late, but turned in before next class period (-10)					<input type="checkbox"/> late, turned in after the next class period (-20)			

Ungraded comments or questions:

This is the place for confusions about the text, things you want me to clear up, or points you want to make sure are addressed in class. You don't have to worry about the formatting for these, and I would expect them to only be a single sentence or even a sentence fragment.