**“I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid” & “My Name” Analysis Questions**

**“I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid” Analysis Questions**

**Recall and Interpret**

1. Describe the speaker’s childhood appearance and activities. How did her looks and actions give her pleasure?

2. What were the speaker’s childhood thoughts about her mother? How and why might they have changed?

3. The speaker mentions “believing in my own myth”, “transforming my reality”, and “creating a legendary self”. In your opinion, what might she mean by each of these phrases?

\*4. What line marks the shift from past to present? How has the speaker’s childhood affected her life? What does she tell herself, and why? (Use evidence from the poem to note the line that marks the shift from past to present.)

**Evaluate and Connect:**

5. Does the speaker’s childhood behavior seem familiar to you, or does it seem unusual? Explain your answer.

6. The speaker says, “I grew like a thin, stubborn weed / watering myself whatever way I could.”   
(a)Explain the simile: how her growth is like that of a thin, stubborn weed. How did she nourish herself?   
(b)Given the poem’s setting, do you think this simile is effective? Explain.

7. Why might the speaker have felt the need to disguise herself when she went fishing? Do you think girls would need this disguise today? Explain.

8. In your opinion, does the speaker refer to herself as “a skinny tomboy kid” with pride, or does she do so with a sense of guilt or shame? Explain.

**“My Name” Analysis Questions**  
1. Think about how Esperanza describes her name in the first paragraph. Identify and explain an example of one simile that she uses. Identify and explain an example of one metaphor.

2. How does Esperanza describe her great-grandmother in the second paragraph? How does this description make you feel about her great-grandmother?

3. There are several sentence fragments in the third paragraph. Find one and write it below. Why do you suppose the writer used such a device? (Hint: A fragment is an incomplete sentence).

4. The writer gives several reasons that she would like to be like her great-grandmother and several that she would not like to be like her. Explain examples of each below.

\*5. Explain the similarities and differences between the narrator of “I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid” and the narrator of “My Name”. Include text evidence from both the poem and the excerpt within your response.   
(Note: Refer back to your notes on how to quote lines of poetry to ensure you are embedding the text evidence correctly for “I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid”. You will quote “My Name” like normal because it is a novella (a short novel), but you won’t list a page number.)

\*6. Explain how these female narrators feel about their maternal members’ positions in society and how it has impacted their lives. Include text evidence from both the poem and the excerpt within your response.