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For homework last night, you read Chapter 9: “Las Ciruelas/Plums.” On this assessment, you get a chance to show what you know about how to analyze this novel on your own. You may use your novel, your evidence flags, and any notes in your journals from our work together for this assessment.

1. What happens in this chapter? Write a one- or two-sentence summary: What is this chapter mostly about?

2. This chapter is titled “Las Ciruelas/Plums.” Why do you think Pam Muñoz Ryan chose this title for the chapter? How does this title relate to the main events or ideas in this chapter?



3. Reread pages 139–143 and think about the challenge Esperanza is facing at this point in the novel. Complete the T-chart below, citing evidence from the text.

Challenge	Responses

4. Make an inference: What does Esperanza’s response to the challenge on pages 139–143 tell us about her as a person? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

Read the following excerpt from page 157, and then answer the questions below:

“Esperanza felt Alfonso behind her, putting his hands on her shoulder. She felt the blood drain from her face. She wanted to tell the doctor that she could not lose Mama, too. That she had already lost Papa and that Abuelita was too far away. Her voice *strangled* with fear. All she could do was whisper the doctor’s uncertain words ‘If she survives.’”

5. In one sentence, summarize the challenge Esperanza and Mama are facing at this point in the novel.

There are two examples of figurative language in this excerpt.

6. What does it mean to have blood *drain* from your face?

7. What does it mean to say Esperanza’s voice was *strangled* with fear?



8. How does the author's use of the words *drain* and *strangled* help us understand how Esperanza is feeling?
