

Like Water for Chocolate Guided Reading Questions

1. Name everyone in the De la Garza family. Who is telling us this story?
2. What is the setting of this novel?
3. Why does Nacha raise Tita? And where do they spend their time?
4. What kind of a mother is Mama Elena? List some characteristics.
5. How did Pedro hurt Tita and why did he do it?
6. What does Tita work on every night before she falls asleep?
7. What is the family rule that keeps Pedro and Tita apart?
8. Look up the term "magical realism" and find examples in this novel.
9. Explain what happens at Rosaura's wedding.
10. Who dies at the end of chapter 2, and what does she have clutched in her hands?
11. What new role does Tita find herself in in chapter 3?
12. What secret ingredient is in the dinner, and what effect does it have on Gertrudis?
13. What does Tita wish at the end of chapter 3?
14. Who is Roberto, and what is being prepared for him?
15. Who is Dr. John Brown and what do you suspect about him?
16. How do Tita and Roberto bond?
17. How does Mama Elena ruin the party?
18. Who are "the rebels" and what happens when they come to the ranch?
19. Who is Juan Alejandrez and why did Mama Elena say that Gertrudis died?
20. Why does Tita go crazy? And who comes to rescue her?
21. Who is the "Kikapu"?
22. How does Dr. Brown get Tita to break her silence?

23. What is the "match theory"?
24. What does Chenchu bring Tita in July, and what does she tell her about Mama Elena and the ranch?
25. What does Gertrudis say in her letter?
26. What secret does Tita find out about her mother and Jose Trevino? How is this ironic?
27. What occasion brings everyone back to the ranch, and who is pregnant?
28. Who raises Esperanza, and how is this repeating the past?
29. What does Pedro expect of Tita now?
30. What great news does Chenchu have in August?
31. Will Tita marry Dr. Brown?
32. What finally happens between Pedro and Tita and what do Chenchu and Rosaura think they see?
33. Where has Dr. Brown gone?
34. Why does Mama Elena's ghost haunt Tita?
35. When Gertrudis comes back to the ranch, how has she changed?
36. Is Tita's dilemma Mama Elena's fault?
37. What does Dr. Brown do for Tita at the end of November?
38. Who are the groom and bride in the wedding in the last chapter?
39. What happens to Tita and Pedro at the end of the novel?
40. Why do you think this novel was broken into 12 chapters, each corresponding to a different calendar month when it actually covered many years?
41. Why do you think each chapter/month began with a recipe?