**Chapter 1:**

1. What is the story of Tita’s birth? What can you infer from it?
2. How does spending most of her childhood in the kitchen affect Tita?
3. Discuss the importance of tradition in families and societies.
4. What is the translation of Chenchas comment that “¡Uno no puede cambiar unos tacos por unas enchiladas así como así!” (13)? For what do you think it is a metaphor?
5. Why do you think Pedro decided to marry Rosaura in order to remain close to Tita?
6. What do Christmas rolls represent to Tita?
7. What is the symbolic meaning of the bedspread Tita is crocheting?
8. What style of writing is beginning to be used? Do you enjoy this style? Why or why not?

**Chapter 2:**

1. What is the significance of Tita comparing herself to the rooster she is meant to castrate?
2. Why do you think Tita experiences blindness after staring at Rosaura’s wedding sheet? What does the color white symbolize in a wedding? What does white symbolize for Tita?
3. What does Nacha mean when she says, “Sólo las ollas saben lo hervores de su caldo, pero yo adivino los tuyos…” (34)?
4. When Pedro explains his reasons for marrying Rosaura, how does Tita respond?
5. What effect does eating the wedding cake have on the guests? What do you think is significant about this reaction?
6. If Nacha had lived, do you think her testimony on Tita’s behalf would’ve stopped Mamá Elena from beating Tita?
7. **Prediction**: How will Nacha’s death affect Tita?

**Chapter 3:**

1. What are the implications of Tita becoming official ranch cook?
2. Discuss the analogy of Tita to the quails
3. “Sin embargo, quién sabe si por querer impresionar a Pedro, su esposo, o querer estar en competencia con Tita en sus terrenos, en una ocasión intentó a cocinar,” (50): Explain what you think motivates Rosaura to cook a meal.
4. What is the significance of the bouquet of roses? What does the incident involving the roses say about Tita and Pedro’s relationship?
5. How does Gertrudis serve as a foil to Tita?
6. What were Pedro’s actions with Tita on the patio? What do you think they mean? How does Tita view his actions?
7. **Prediction:** Will Gertrudis return to the ranch?

**Chapter 4:**

1. Why is Tita able to love Roberto despite the fact that he is Rosaura’s son?
2. What is the significance of Pedro and Tita’s passionate glance in the kitchen?
3. Examine Tita’s feelings during the time she invented her finest recipes. How do you think Pedro felt during this time?
4. Why does Tita curse all of her manners and textbook knowledge?
5. What do you think is significant about Tita helping to deliver her nephew?
6. Explain the irony in Mamá Elena’s statement that “Los niños no deben estar lejos de su madre.” Discuss the possible reasons Mamá Elena might make such a statement.
7. **Prediction:** How will Dr. Brown’s interest in Tita progress?
8. **Prediction:** Will Tita prevent Mamá Elena from sending Pedro and his family to San Antonio?

**Chapter 5:**

1. What important things happen during the soldiers’ visit to the ranch? How might Mamá Elena have acted toward the captain if she had known that he carried off Gertrudis?
2. Why does Mamá Elena tell Captain Alejandrez that one of her daughters is dead Why does this have such an effect on the captain?
3. Why are the pigeons important to Tita?
4. Why are Mamá Elana’s baths such important events? How does the private room set the scene for a future event?
5. What is symbolism you can find in Mamá Elena’s skills at cutting a watermelon?
6. Examine the causes and effects of Mamá Elena sending Pedro, Rosaura and Roberto to San Antonio.
7. **Prediction:** How will being away from the ranch change Tita?

**Chapter 6:**

1. What is Tita’s reaction to being away from the ranch and Mamá Elena for the first time?
2. Examine the role of Morning Light.
3. Why is John Brown the ideal person to help Tita recover from her breakdown?
4. Analyze the metaphor in Morning Light’s “box of matches” theory. How is this significant to Tita?
5. Why is the recipe for matches at the beginning of Chapter 6 the only non-food recipe in the novel?
6. **Prediction:** Will Tita return to the ranch? Why or why not?

**Chapter 7:**

1. Analyze the significance of ox-tail soup.
2. Discuss Mamá Elena’s decision to disown Tita. Why does she do this? Do you think it is a wise decision?
3. How has Tita matured since the beginning of the novel?
4. Why does Mamá Elena reject Tita’s cooking? What do you think is the bitterness between Mamá Elena tastes in the food?
5. Compare and contrast Mamá Elena’s and Tita’s relationships with Chencha.
6. Imagine the story thus far from Mamá Elena’s point of view. Consider the following questions: How might Mamá Elena’s personality have changed from when she was young and in love with José Treviño? Is she a cruel, domineering parent, or are her methods conventional for the time period? Does she treat Tita vindictively because of her own heart, or is she trying to manage a rebellious daughter by following the example set by her parents?
7. **Prediction:** How will Pedro attempt to keep Tita and John apart?

**Chapter 8:**

1. Compare and contrast Esperanza’s early life to Tita’s.
2. Discuss Pedro and Tita’s argument about her impending marriage to John Brown.
3. Examine the cause and effect of Tita’s anger. Discuss how the phrase “like water for chocolate” applies to her anger.
4. Rosaura was moved by the tears in her sisters eyes, taking them for tears of joy, and she felt a slight lifting of the guilt she sometimes suffered for marrying Pedro. Why do you think Rosaura married Pedro in the first place?
5. Do you think Tita and Pedro’s encounter in the dark room symbolizes true love? Why or why not?
6. **Prediction:** How will Pedro and Rosaura’s marriage be affected by affected by Pedro’s affair with Tita?

**Chapter 9:**

1. What does Three King’s Day bread represent to Tita?
2. What do you think is the significance of Rosaura’s mysterious illness?
3. Examine the effects of Tita and Pedro’s encounter in the dark room.
4. What is the significance of Mamá Elena’s spirit appearing?
5. What wishes does Tita make as she puts the doll into the bread? Predict which of her wishes will come true and which won’t.
6. How does Gertrudis differ from her two sisters?
7. **Prediction:** What advice will Gertrudis give Tita?

**Chapter 10:**

1. What can you infer from Gertrudis’ comments about “truth”?
2. What is Pedro’s reaction to Tita’s pregnancy? How does this further complicate the situation at the ranch?
3. What is the significance of the scene with Gertrudis and Sergeant Treviño in the kitchen? Why might the author hve given the sergeant the same surname as Mamá Elena’s lover, José Treviño?
4. What is the importance of Tita finally standing up to her mother?
5. Why is Tita’s pregnancy not the happy event she always thought it would be? What happens to her pregnancy in this chapter, and what does this symbolize?
6. Analyze the scene in which Rosaura and Tita “looked at each other challengingly.”
7. **Prediction:** Will Pedro recover?
8. **Prediction:** How will John react when Tita calls off their engagement?

**Chapter 11:**

1. Analyze the metaphor, “Pedro estaba convertido en un monstruo de egoísmo y celos.” (p. 212)
2. What do you make of Rosaura’s miraculous weight loss? Do you think she is right to confront Tita?
3. Compare and contrast Tita and Rosaura.
4. What does the “hen hurricane” symbolize?
5. What is the significance of the scene about Jovita?
6. Consider what John and Pedro have to offer Tita. Whom do you think she would choose, and why?
7. **Prediction:** Whom will Tita choose?

**Chapter 12:**

1. How does the job of shelling nuts serve as a metaphor in this chapter?
2. What can you infer from John’s and Pedro’s actions the night before the wedding?
3. What does the box of matches that John gives Tita represent?
4. Analyze the cause of Rosaura’s death.
5. Compare and contrast Tita’s and Rosaura’s concerns about Tita and Pedro’s affair. What does this illustrate about each sister?
6. List the terms of the pact between Rosaura, Pedro and Tita. Which part of the pact is eventually called into question, and why?
7. Analyze the significance of Esperanza and Alex’s wedding.
8. What is the importance of the chiles in walnut sauce?
9. What roles does “light” play in the deaths of Tita and Pedro? What instances of magical realim are there in this final scene?
10. Why is the cookbook important?