



Reading Log for
What the Moon Saw,
by Laura Resau

This log belongs to _____.

Part 1: Partner Log

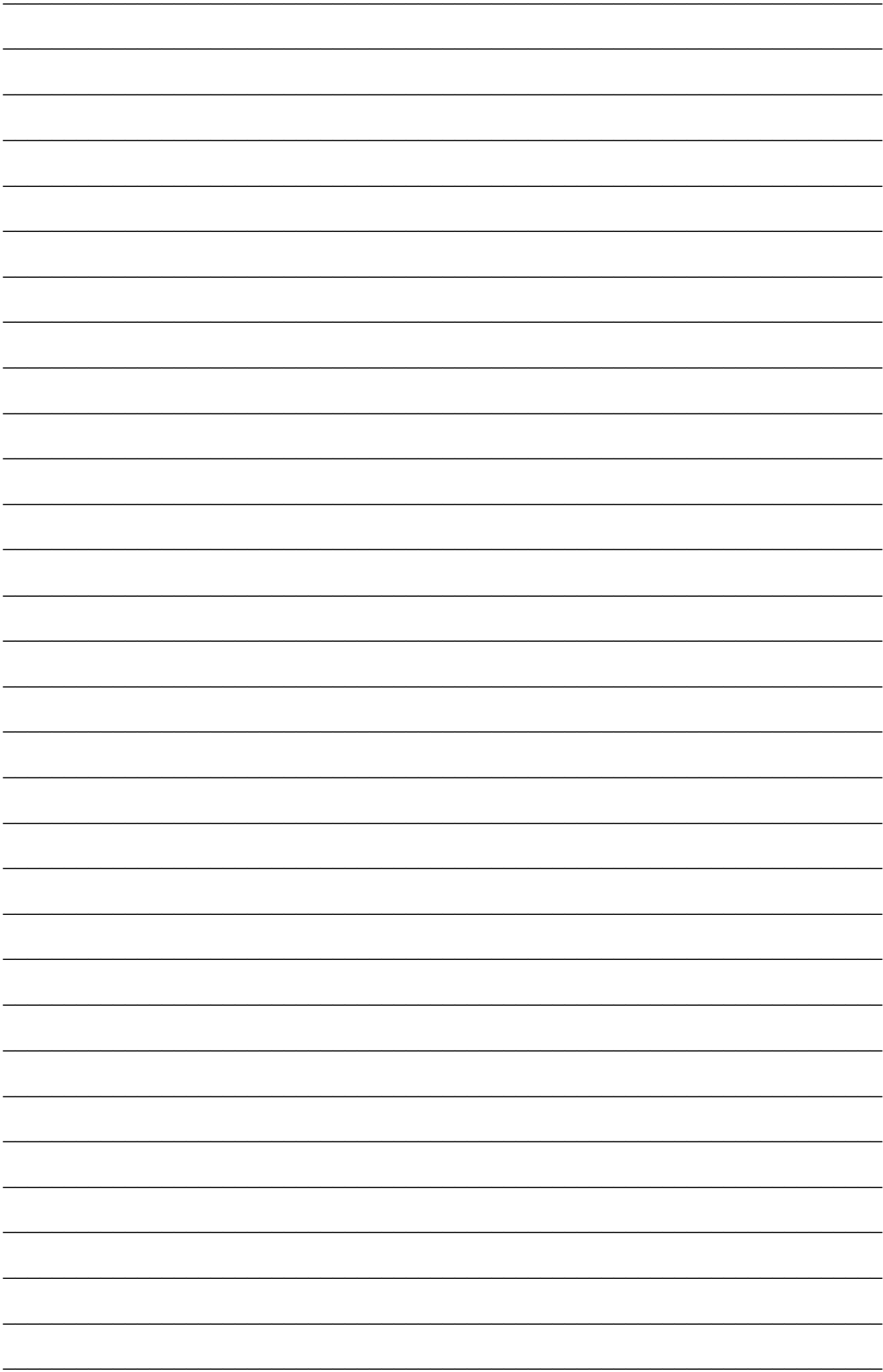
Part 2: Individual Log

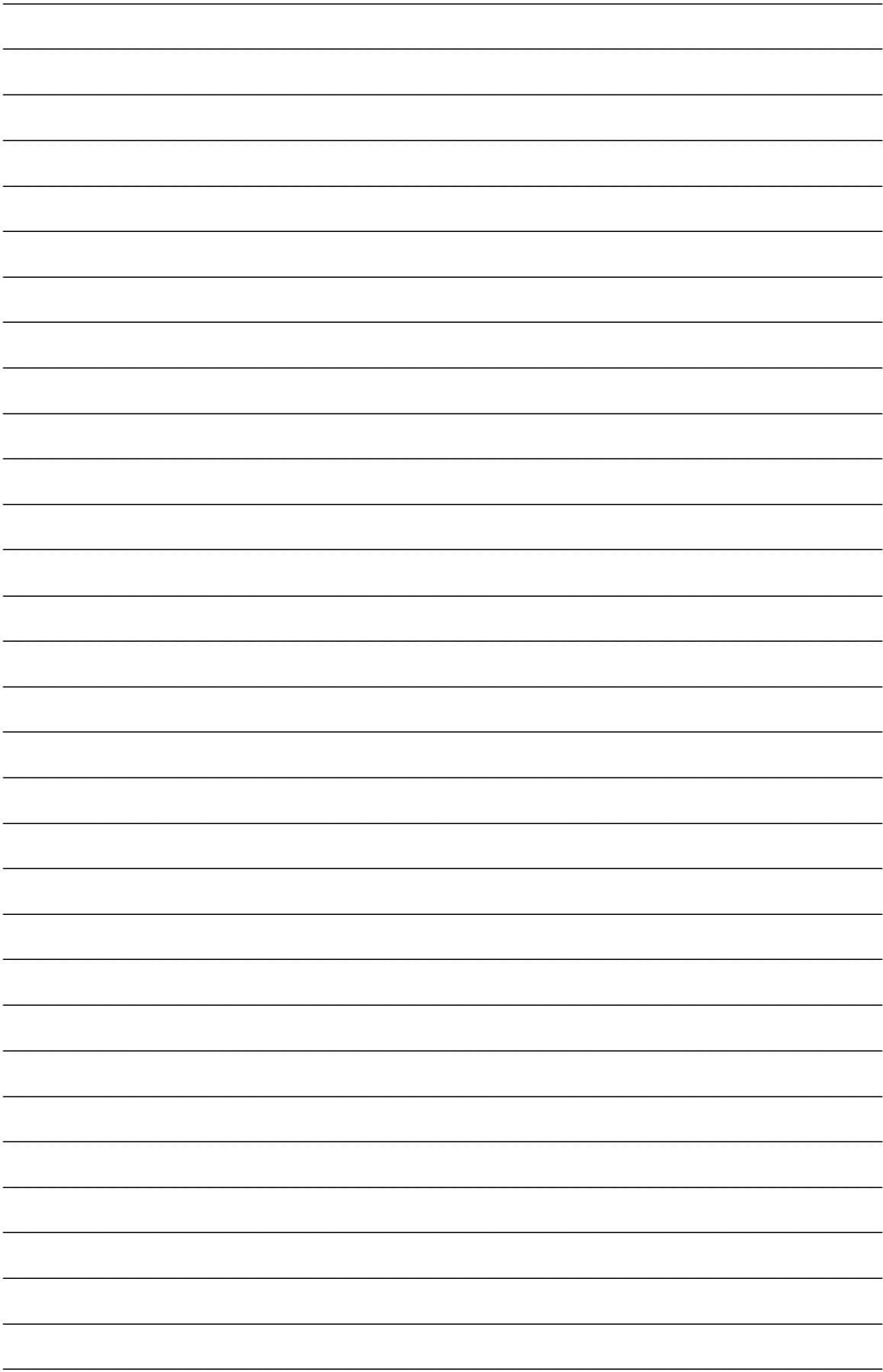
Welcome to the world of Clara Luna, who, at the age of fourteen, wonders “What is real?” (2) Since she isn’t going to find the answer in her tidy Baltimore suburb, when a letter arrives from Clara’s grandparents, whom she has never met, telling her that they will meet her “on the full moon in June at the airport in Oaxaca,” is it only a coincidence? (13) To heighten the mystery, Clara’s father has avoided answering her questions about her grandparents in the past. In fact, Clara gave up asking her dad about his parents after he told her, “*Mira*, Clara, I knew I couldn’t go forward in life if I was always looking back. I had to learn English and work hard and save money. And now, look where I am. I can give a good life to my children. I look to my future, not to my past” (12). However, Clara’s father now urges her to go and tells Clara that her grandmother “knows things. She *knows* things” (15). Clara’s decision to go begins her journey of self-discovery.

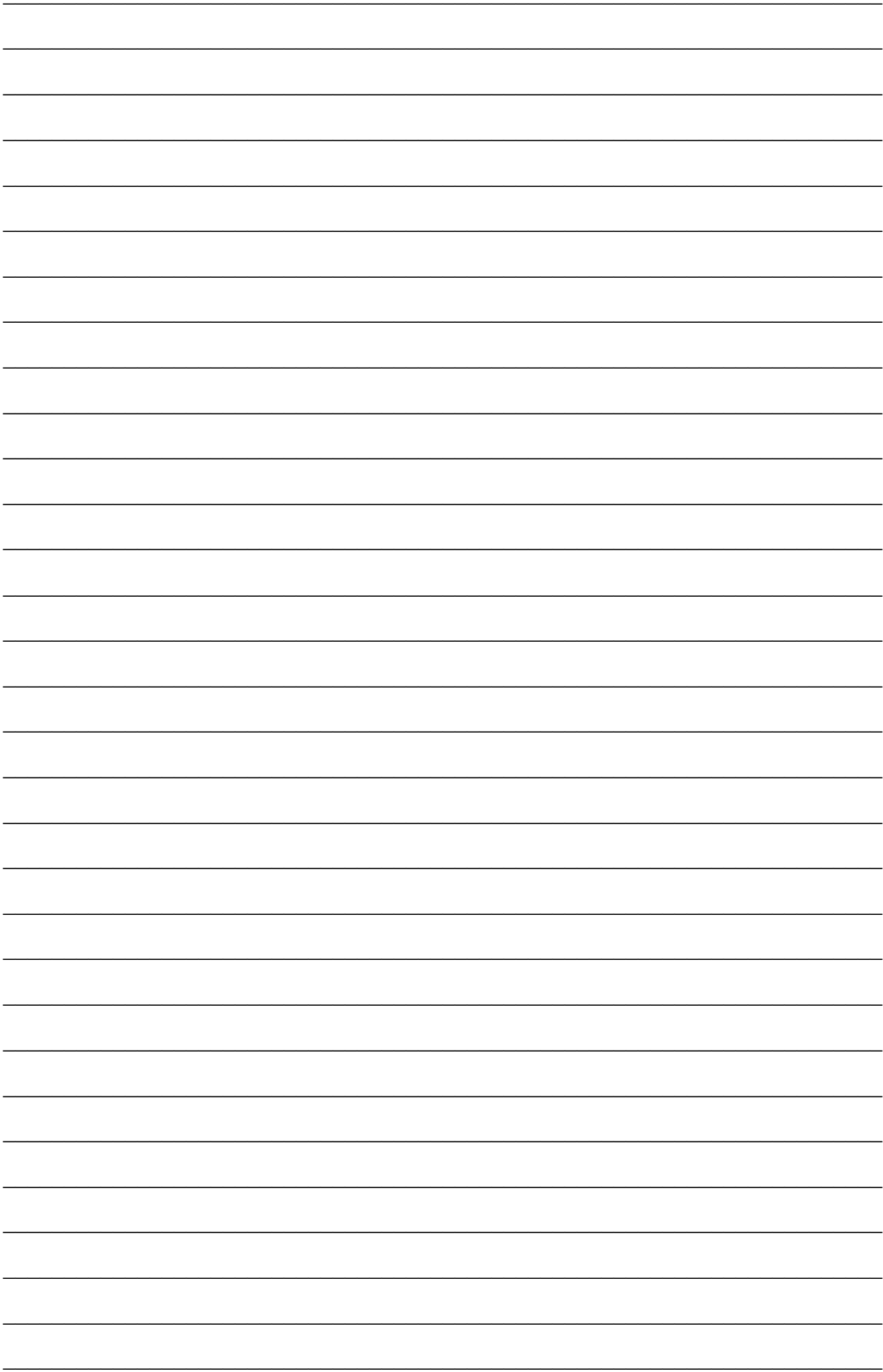
This is a coming-of-age novel, or one in which the main character experiences growing up and reconciling her own expectations for her inner self with those of the outer world. This is also a novel in which the mystical is considered a real part of everyday life. This is sometimes termed “magical realism” since magical elements are present in an otherwise realistic setting. Magical realism also tends to be very rich in sensory details, symbols, and imagery. “Magical realism” can be considered an ethnocentric term, since it implies that the mystical events are not, in fact, real. The term “magical realism” carries a cultural bias, as there are those who believe in the rituals and occurrences and would argue that the fiction is realistic. However, the term is probably here to stay.

This log is set up in two parts. Part 1 has assignments for you to do with at least one but not more than three partners. You do not have to discuss each assignment with the same partner(s). When you and your partner(s) have discussed the assignment, you should each record your answer in your own log. You and your partner(s) may have different opinions. The important thing is not agreement, but the discussion. Please do not write identical answers even if you agree; although you are discussing the questions, you should still be formulating your own answers. Part 2 of this log is for you as an individual, and assignments in this section should be completed without discussing them with anyone else. You will have an opportunity to share your answers in class.

The back of each log page is blank in case there is not enough room on the front for you to write. Please feel free to write on the backs of pages or to insert more pages of your own.







Part II
Individual Log

Assignment 1 Date _____

Reading for this assignment: "Chapter 1, Clara," pages 3–18

Directions: Answer all of the questions in complete sentences. You need to stay in the habit, as I have noticed that you think more deeply when you write in complete sentences. Also, do not use a pronoun as the subject of your first sentence. Pronouns require an antecedent; that is, a pronoun refers to a noun, which means a noun must be used first.

1. What does "Clara Luna" mean? _____

2. What did Clara's father tell her when she asked him if he missed his parents?

3. Why is part of Clara relieved to stop asking her father about his parents? ____

4. **Interpretive Question:** After Clara has been caught sneaking out of the house at night and her grandmother's letter arrives the next day, her father asks her, "You think it was a coincidence this letter came right after you did this thing last night?...My mother knows things. She *knows* things" (15). What do you think this reveals about Clara's grandmother and about the kind of relationship Clara and her grandmother will have?

5. Draw a picture that you think resembles the one that Clara drew in her sketchbook (page 18). Be sure to use color.

Assignment 3 Date _____

Reading for this assignment: "Chapter 2, Clara," pages 22–41

Directions: Answer all questions in complete sentences. Also, do not use a pronoun as the subject of the first sentence. Pronouns should only be used to refer to nouns.

1. What is the Mixteco language? _____

2. What does "Yucuyoo" mean? _____

3. Who is Loro? _____

Assignment 4 Date _____

Reading for this assignment: "Chapter 3, Helena, Summer 1934," pages 42–52

Directions: Answer all questions in complete sentences. Also, do not use a pronoun as the subject of the first sentence.

1. What is the relationship between Helena and Clara? _____

2. What is the relationship between Helena and Ta'nu? _____

3. What is a soul flight, and why does Helena risk one, even though it is dangerous? _____

4. What is Helena's spirit animal? _____

5. If you had a spirit animal, what do you think it would be, and why?

Assignment 6 Date _____

Reading for this assignment: "Chapter 5, Helena, Summer 1935 – Fall 1937," pages 72 – 91

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

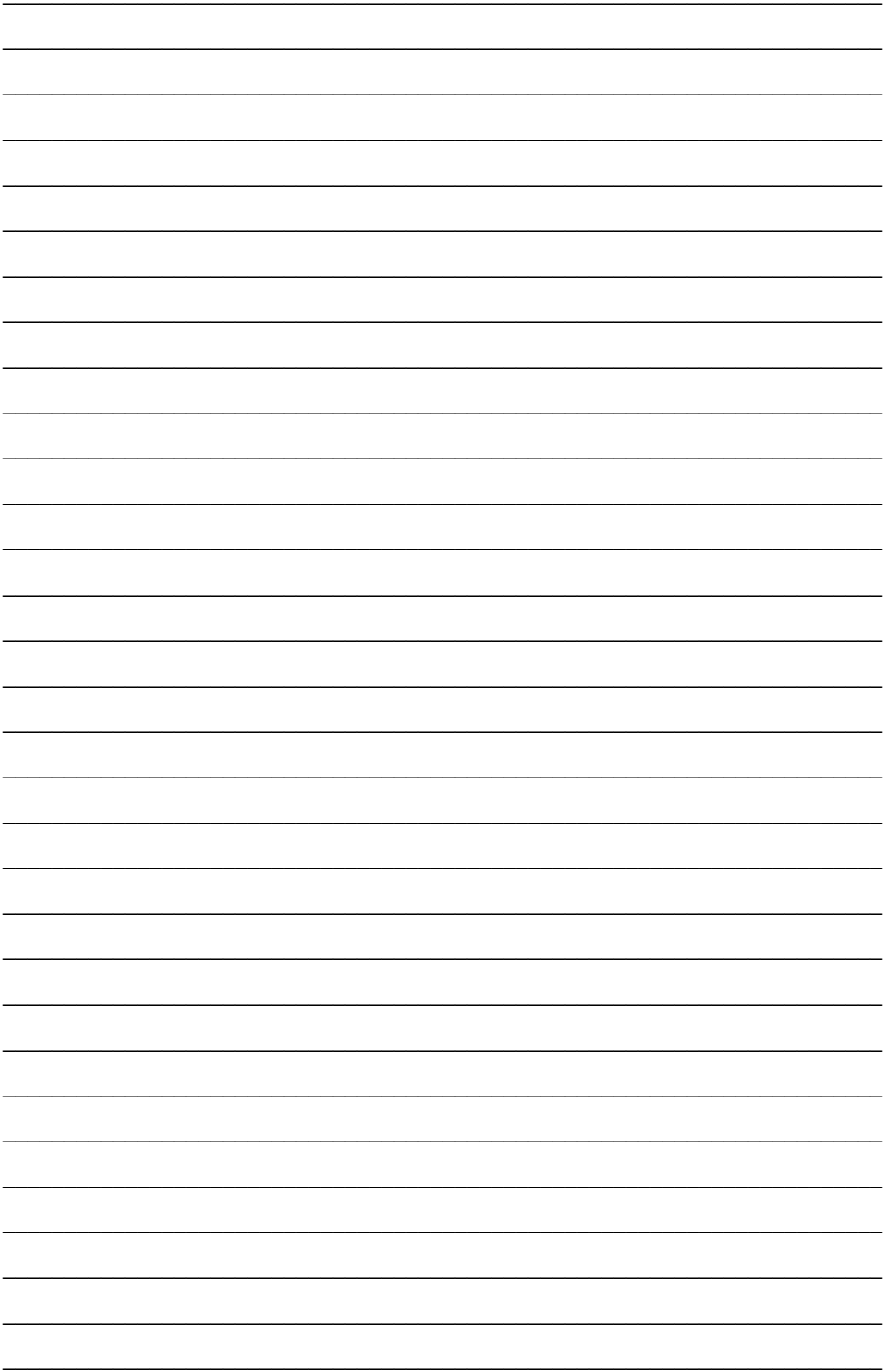
1. Why does Helena finally tell Ta'nu that she will go to Oaxaca City?

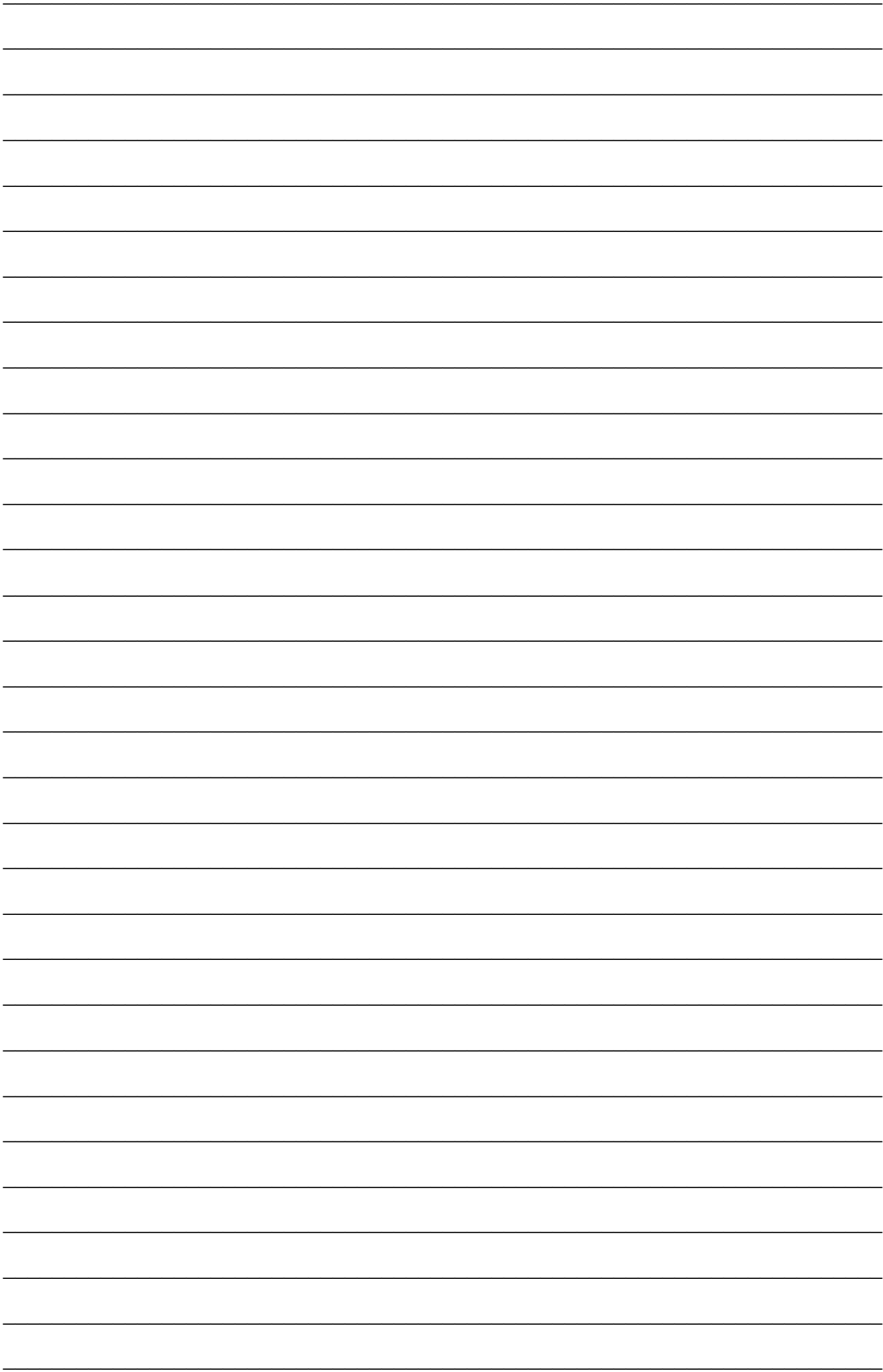
2. What does the saying "We all eat from the same tortilla" mean? _____

Are you aware of any similar cultural or religious traditions? _____

3. How old is Helena when she begins work as a maid in the López household?

4. Just when Helena begins to feel despair and that all she "wanted to do was go back to sleep and never wake up," Loro cried out, "¡Ánimo, Helena!" At this, Helena "stood up, and started working." "You see," she later tells Clara, "how important it is to have one true friend in the world? Later I learned that ánimo also means soul. Spirit. And really, Loro had seen my spirit empty of





Assignment 14 Date _____

Reading for this assignment: “Chapter 14, Clara,” pages 250–252. You will also need to refer to Chapter 6.

Clara’s and Pedro’s feelings for their fathers have become clearer and less conflicted for them over the summer. How have their feelings about their fathers changed, and how did knowing each other help make these changes possible? What else influenced Clara’s changes toward her father? Use the graphic organizer to plan your writing.

Pedro’s feelings about his father at the beginning of the summer.	Pedro’s feelings about his father at the end of the summer.	Clara’s influence
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Clara's feelings about her father at the beginning of the summer

Clara's feelings about her father at the end of the summer

Pedro's influence

Other influences (grandmother, grandfather, Yucuyoo)



