

# ***My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor**

Ninth Grade IB Summer Assignment  
Due September 2, 2022

There are many ways to talk about culture in *My Beloved World*, but we want to focus on understanding key cultural concepts that are crucial to the text. Students should have a full understanding of the material in order to answer these questions. They often include multiple parts of the work and ask for a thorough analysis of the overall text. They nearly always require a substantial response. Responses are typically expected to consist of (multiple) paragraphs. These questions are designed to challenge a student's understanding of the broad points in a work, interactions among the characters, and main points and themes of the text. But, they also cover many of the other issues specific to the work and to the world today.

It is also important to stress here that Sotomayor uses the genre of memoir with artistic license to retell her story. ***Directions: After reading the book, answer these questions. Write your answers in multi paragraph form (for example, since there are 10 questions with multiple parts, you might consider writing one or more paragraphs for each). Use evidence and quotes from the text to support your ideas.*** Please reach out to Mrs.Call ([shana.call@ocps.net](mailto:shana.call@ocps.net)) or Mrs.Drisgill ([jacqueline.drisgill@ocps.net](mailto:jacqueline.drisgill@ocps.net)) if you have any questions regarding the assignment.

## **Society and Culture:**

1. What role does Puerto Rican culture play in this text? Consider the development of Sotomayor and the other members of her family.
2. How are New York and Puerto Rico both important settings to Sotomayor? How does each place identify her as a person and help with her personal development?

## **Power, Knowledge, Education, and Religion:**

1. How do Sotomayor and Celina both use literature as a coping mechanism in their lives? How are books and literature seen differently by the two women?
2. How does race impact Sotomayor's life in her memoir? Consider not just Sotomayor, but the other students of color she befriends and interacts with throughout her education and her time in the Bronx.
3. Although it appears at first glance like Sotomayor's job at the DA's office and her job at Pavia and Harcourt are very different, they actually have more similarities than at first meets the eye. Highlight the similarities between the two jobs using quotes from the text.
4. Perform a close read on Sotomayor's time at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, and Garrison (chapters 17-21). What lesson does this teach Sotomayor on a professional and personal level?

## Psychology and Relationships:

1. What is the most valuable lesson Sotomayor learns from Abuelita?
2. Select one of Sotomayor's mentors and analyze their relationship more closely. Answer the question: How does this mentor impact Sotomayor's personal and professional life? What interactions, in specific, help to change the trajectory of Sotomayor's life and impact her lifelong success?

## Language and Style:

1. Analyze and define the different genres: autobiography, biography and memoir. What are the benefits of selecting the genre of memoir? How would the book be different if it had been written as an autobiography or biography?
2. Why does Sotomayer include the Spanish language in her text? How does the involvement of Spanish words develop the memoir? How would the memoir be different if Spanish was not used at all? How does the use of the Spanish language help to develop Sotomayor's identity?

## Rubric for Evaluation

	0	1 (20)	2 (40)	3 (60)	4 (80)	5 (100)
<p><b>Understanding and interpretation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well does the student demonstrate an understanding of the text and draw reasoned conclusions from the implications in it?</li> <li>• How well are ideas supported by references to the text?</li> </ul>	The work does not reach standard .	The response demonstrates little understanding of the literal and figurative meanings of the text.	The response demonstrates some understanding of the literal and figurative meanings of the text.	The response demonstrates an understanding of the literal and figurative meanings of the text.	The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the literal and figurative meanings of the text.	The response demonstrates a thorough and perceptive understanding of the literal and figurative meanings of the text.
<p><b>Focus and Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well organized, coherent and focused is the presentation of ideas?</li> </ul>	The work does not reach a standard described.	Little organization is apparent in the presentation of ideas. No discernable focus is apparent in the analysis.	Some organization is apparent in the presentation of ideas. There is little focus in the analysis.	The presentation of ideas is adequately organized in a generally coherent manner. There is some focus in the analysis.	The presentation of ideas is well organized and mostly coherent. The analysis is adequately focused.	The presentation of ideas is effectively organized and coherent. The analysis is well focused.

<p><b>Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How clear, varied and accurate is the language?</li> <li>● How appropriate is the choice of style and terminology? (This refers to the student's use of elements such as vocabulary, tone, sentence structure and terminology.)</li> </ul>	<p>The work does not reach a standard described.</p>	<p>Language is rarely clear and appropriate; there are many errors in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction.</p>	<p>Language is sometimes clear and carefully chosen; grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction are fairly accurate, although errors and inconsistencies are apparent.</p>	<p>Language is clear and carefully chosen, with an adequate degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction despite some lapses.</p>	<p>Language is clear and carefully chosen, with a good degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction.</p>	<p>Language is very clear, effective, carefully chosen and precise, with a high degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction.</p>
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