“That Room” Discussion Questions

1. Why does the narrator describe his “life at home and school” as “inessential, parenthetical” (para. 3) in comparison to “a real life in a real world” (para. 4)?

2. Why is the work the narrator does on the farm important to him?

3. How are Eduardo and Miguel foils to one another?

4. Why is Miguel so angry?

5. How does the motel room and what happens in it take on symbolic meaning in this plot?

6. Discuss the significance of paragraphs 11-12. Why do you think they appear where they do and are set off from the rest of the story?

7. How is the bus trip described in paragraph 12 relevant to the narrator’s experience? What kind of perspective on life is expressed in the paragraph?

8. Discuss your reading of the story’s final paragraph and how it relates to the rest of the narration.

9. (If we’ve read “Battle Royal”) – Discuss the similarities and differences related to the nature of what the protagonist learns about life in these two stories.