

Questions for Close Reading of “My Mother, the Scientist”

1. Explain why was the narrator nervous in class? Cite specific textual evidence.

2. Writers have many different ways of offering information and experiences to their readers. Explain how the sentences and the writing style in the second paragraph are different from the first paragraph.

3. Explain the central idea of the second paragraph. How does the narrative of the first paragraph support the central idea? Use specific textual evidence to support your answer.

6. We know that Joan is both a mother and a scientist. How does Hirshberg develop both of these facts in paragraphs 4 and 5? Use specific textual evidence to support your answer.

Independent Practice

7. Explain why the episode baking bread led the narrator to say he “never understood what other kids meant when they said science was boring.” What specific textual evidence does he present to illustrate his fascination with science?
