

Name: _____ Date: _____

In the Time of the Butterflies

Postscript Comprehension Questions

Directions: After reading the postscript on pages 323–324 of *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, answer the following questions.

1. How is Julia Alvarez's family similar to the Mirabal sisters? How are they different?

2. What does Alvarez say she kept asking herself after hearing the Mirabal sisters' story?

3. What is the danger of deification? Why did Alvarez want to show the Mirabal sisters as ordinary people?

4. How does thinking about others as myths impact our sense of self?

5. Why did Alvarez decide to write historical fiction as opposed to a historical text?

6. What do you think Julia Alvarez means by "a novel is not, after all, a historical document, but a way to travel through the human heart" (324)?

7. In her postscript, what does Alvarez hope her fictionalized story will do?