

The Tortilla Curtain

part one, chapters 1 and 3

How does Delaney (a self-described “liberal humanist”) feel about hitting a man (“his victim”) with his car? Explain your answer. Expand...

Why does Delaney have conflicted feelings about the man being Mexican?

Is there anything Delaney should have done differently? Explain...

Delaney offered help; Cándido refused it. So why would Delaney lie to Kenny Grissom, saying he hit a dog?

Is Kyra’s response reasonable? Explain...

In your own words, describe Delaney's daily routine and his role within his family.

Why does the community want a gated entrance?

Why is Delaney (and the athletic man) against the gate?

part one, chapters 2 and 4

Cándido is badly hurt. He doesn't have money, but hospitals don't refuse to help indigents. And if he gets deported, he could just sneak back over the border again like he had done many times before. So why does he refuse medical attention?

Why does América sneak into the United States with Cándido? What does he promise her? And what is she expecting?

Cándido is too injured to seek work, and they need food. So why is Cándido so “vehemently” opposed to América trying to find work?

Cándido thinks about what América means to him “—just his life, that was all.” Explain Cándido’s background with América and why he believes that América is his savior who rescued him from a ruined life.

Why is América both shocked and discouraged when she finds out that Mary also is looking for work at the labor exchange?

What happened the first time América and Cándido tried to enter the United States?

Who tears up Cándido and América’s campsite? Why does Cándido comment about the boy being a redhead... “did they all have to be redheads”?