

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...

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?

What is Kyra’s response when Delaney tells her he hit a man with his car?

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?

Cándido is too injured to seek work, and they need food. So why is Cándido so 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”?

part one, chapters 5-8

Describe Kyra... What type of **employee** is she? ...**wife**? ...**mother**? What is her top priority?

What is **ironic** about Delaney's column which praises the coyote chorus?

How does Delaney's viewpoint differ from Jack Jardine's regarding immigrants and "controlling the borders"?

What are Delaney's **conflicting** feelings when he sees Cándido in the grocery store parking lot?

How does Delaney feel about seeing José and his companion in the canyon during his hike?
What is the significance of the six Hispanic men who were part of a road crew?

How does Kyra feel about the Da Ros property?

Bill Greutert wants a house that is "out of the way," safe. Out of the way and safe from what?

Nine days after Cándido's accident, América gets work at the labor exchange and is taken to Arroyo Blanco. How is she treated by her employer (Jim Shirley)?

Compare/contrast América and Mary.

América and Cándido (and Delaney) meet José Navidad. Describe him...