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ENC 1101

Homework

“Public and Private Language”

Understanding Details:

1. Rodriguez found safety in the Spanish language because he did not speak English very well. The Spanish language had sounds, tones and pronunciation that he understood and was familiar with. At home, his family could speak in their first language and feel relaxed. In these few ways was Spanish language a private one for Rodriguez.
2. When the two nuns visited Rodriguez's home, his world of comfort and stability was shaken by a new world of diversity, individuality and a new language.
3. The “spell” Rodriguez is referring to is the comfort of speaking a language he was familiar with at home. It was broken by his parents after the two nuns had visited his home. His parents called him and his older siblings to tell them, “Ahora, speak to us en ingles.” From that moment on the “spell” had been broken.
4. The author asserted his public self when he raised his hand and spoke aloud proudly and the class understood his english which was consistent with his identity.

Reading Critically:

5. Language and identity are as connected as family to the author. When the familiarity of the spanish language began to fade as the english language increased in his home he suffered a loss of identity. Thus, the level of connection between the two.