Synthesizing the information from the reading, consider the following questions:

Why did Juan & Luisa Fernandez decide to come to the U.S?
Have they assimilated in the U.S? Evidence?
Have their children assimilated in America? Evidence?
What’s a barrio? Explain the term an “informal transaction.”
Why is there a “constant threat of deportation?”

What brought Nguyen Van Tran to Los Angeles in 1980?
How does Mr. Best explain his own success in the U.S?
Have Nguyen Van Tran and his wife assimilated in America?

Why, in your opinion, Lilia Goonzalez-Fleites was granted a refugee status by the U.S. government?
What social agencies and organizations provide support for refugees?
What made Lilia’s life in Carolina unbearable?
Would you attribute her personal problems to internal, or external conflicts?
In your opinion, what role does education play in the process of assimilation? What’s Lilia’s “recipe” for success?

Explain the “third preference” of the U.S. immigration law.
What moved the Rays to go back home?
How did the Rays gain entry into American social circles?
What keeps the Rays form from going back home (name at least four things)?

Across the stories, is there an observable pattern? Is it possible to present a homogeneous “portrait” of an immigrant, starting with the country of origin, reasons for immigration, nostalgia, life in the U.S?