

## Worksheet 4: Questions for Directed Reading of Speech

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### “Violence against Women and the Example of the Mirabal Sisters”

*Directions: As you read the speech by Minou Tavárez Mirabal, answer the following questions. Be sure that you provide evidence from the speech for your answers.*

1. What is the earliest example that the speaker gives of women’s political participation in what would become the Dominican Republic?

Does this event show up in the history book(s) that your school uses? If not, why do you think it has been omitted?

2. Why does she say women can be described as “the invisible half of history?” What task does Minou set before us to rectify that situation?
3. Name a central focus of the political dynamic in democratic countries and those striving for democracy. What special difficulties do women face in achieving this special focus?
4. Consider forces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that enhance that central focus. What forces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century detract from that central focus? Would it be easier or more difficult for women to lead a revolutionary movement today?
5. Give examples of how violence against women has shaped the political evolution in the Dominican Republic.
6. How serious a problem is violence against women in the Dominican Republic?

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7. What was the reason Minou gave for Minerva and her sisters taking on political leadership in the 1940s and 1950s—a time when the collective imagination envisaged women as confined to domestic roles? Do you agree this was the reason?
  
8. According to Minou Tavárez Mirabal, what role did her mother play in shaping political events? How was her participation limited? Her father was named president of the movement and not her mother. Why?
  
9. What qualities do the women pushing for representation have that has led to the progress made in the Dominican Republic?
  
10. Minou Tavárez Mirabal is speaking about the women of the Dominican Republic. Do you think her words have relevance for women in the United States? Give evidence to support your answer.