“My Name is María Isabel”

1. How is Maria Isabel’s class learning about the different kinds of winter holiday celebrations? How do you know?

2. The Hanukkah song is Maria Isabel’s favorite. Go through the chapter, find and list the places it is mentioned to show how the author makes this fact clear.

3. What big problem is Maria Isabel having in this story? Find four places where it is mentioned and state them.

4. What was Maria’s “only fun” while the rest of the class rehearsed?

5. Explain how Charlotte’s Web plays a big part in this story?
6. What does Maria Isabel mean when she says: “It all a big misunderstanding...”

7. Why does Maria Isabel feel so badly when she goes to bed?

8. Troublesome means disturbing. Why does Maria Isabel say she was caught in a sticky, troublesome spider’s web of her own? Why a spider web?

9. How do the illustrations help you understand how Maria Isabel was feeling?

10. Create a chart describing each of Maria’s essays. Explain why the third topic was what she really wanted.

11. Reread “My Greatest Wish.” What is Maria Isabel’s greatest wish? What changes after she wrote this essay?
12. At first, Maria Isabel doesn’t pay attention when the teacher talks about a change in the pageant. Why did Maria Isabel finally look up in amazement when the teacher explained the changes in the program?

13. Maria’s father, Mr. Salazar, gave Maria Isabel a gift. What was the gift? Describe it. What important part does this gift have in the end of the story to show how Maria Isabel’s feelings have changed?