“The Grave” Katherine Ann Porter

1. What is the childhood memory recalled by Miranda?
2. What triggered her memory to recall the experience?
3. Go back to Miranda’s recalled experience.
4. What are the sights, smells, and other adjectives that Porter uses to describe the grave scene?
5. Describe Miranda as a character (physically, personally, etc.) in the first part of this story. How did finding the ring affect her? What does that indicate about her as a person?
6. Consider her brother. What are his values and motivations in life? How does he compare to Miranda? Does he change as a character? Why/why not?
7. What is the significance of the hunting experience? How did the rabbit and her unborn babies affect Miranda?
8. Consider the symbolism of “The Grave.” What is the significance of the ring and the dove? What does each thing represent?
9. Think about the title of this story. How is this title important in understanding this experience in Miranda’s life?
10. Reread the last paragraph on Porter in the section preceding the story. How is this story “lyrical?” Give examples from the story that support the idea that this story “employs symbolic detail, figurative language, imagery, and other structural devices traditionally more closely associated with the manner and method of poetry than with that of prose.”
11. Define the term NATURALISM. What elements of this story are naturalistic?