

## Return to Sender

by Julia Alvarez

On one level, *Return to Sender* is a book about painful sacrifice—the characters often find themselves in difficult situations with hard decisions to make. Below, note one sacrifice made by each character.

<b>Mr. Paquette (Tyler's dad)</b>	
<b>Mr. Cruz (Mari's papa)</b>	
<b>Mrs. Cruz (Mari's mama)</b>	
<b>Mari Cruz</b>	

When the Cruz family is being investigated, Mari volunteers to meet with authorities to share her family's story. Imagine that you are Mari, preparing to meet with the authorities. How would you feel? Why?

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Swallows are small birds that migrate south in the winter. Sometimes, they get lost and never find their way back. Think about the events in the story. How might the swallows represent the Cruz family?

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The Paquette family desperately needed help on their farm. The Cruz family desperately needed a better way to make a living. Ultimately, these two families from different worlds form a strong bond. Think about each family's background, challenges, and values. How are the two families different? How are they the same? Use the Venn diagram below to show your answers.

