Author’s Purpose

1. Is Alvarez reporting “just the facts” or is she sharing personal impressions as well? Explain the intended effect of these details.

2. Although Alvarez describes a frightening experience, her tone is not fearful. Identify the tone and three details that convey it.

3. Do you think Alvarez’s primary purpose is to persuade, to entertain, to inform, or to express thoughts and feelings? What important details from the essay advance this purpose?

4. Consider the descriptions in lines 1–3 and 19–21, as well as Alvarez’s tone. What can you infer about her perspective?

5. What words does the author use in the first paragraph to describe movement? What do these words show about the author’s emotions at the time?