

EXHIBIT 19.1. Initial Assessment

Name _____

Date _____

Excerpt

The older you are, the younger you get when you move to the United States. Two years after my father and I moved here from Guatemala I could speak English. I learned it on the playground and by watching lots of TV. Don't believe what people say—cartoons make you smart. But my father, he worked all day in a kitchen with Mexicans and Salvadorans. His English was worse than a kindergartener's. He would only buy food at the bodega down the block. Outside of there he lowered his eyes and tried to get by on mumbles and smiles. He didn't want strangers to hear his mistakes. So he used me to make phone calls and to talk to the landlady and to buy things in stores where you had to use English. He got younger. I got older.

Source: Fleishman, P. (1997). "Gonzalo," in *Seedfolks*. New York: Harper Trophy, 17–18.