**Midterm 092I Prof. Kocay**

**“The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao,” by Junot Diaz**

You may use your book to find SPECIFIC examples to support your points. Please **document your source** by putting the page in parenthesis like this: (Diaz 34) for any quote or information you summarize or paraphrase. **DO NOT USE ANY SOURCE OTHER THAN YOUR OSCAR WAO NOVEL**. YOU WILL FAIL THE MIDTERM IF ANY OF YOUR WORK IS FROM ANOTHER SOURCE (gradesaver, studentpaper, cliffnotes, etc.) this is required to pass 092i and is worth 100 points. **Please complete each of the questions below**:

1. Explain **3 specific ways** that Lola is like her mother Beli. Now explain **3 ways** that Lola and Beli are different. Do you think people will always be somewhat like their parents, or can they turn out totally and completely different even if they are raised by them? Be specific and support your points with examples from the text. (2 or more paragraphs.)

2. Choose several significant factors **(reasons) for why Oscar decides to jump from the railroad bridge** and clearly explain each reason using examples from the text. ln your opinion, what in the first 200 pages of the book have you learned about Oscar (his character, his personality, things that happen to him, his place is society, etc.) that might have led him to his suicide attempt. Please use specific examples from the text to support your essay answers and document them properly. (2 or more paragraphs).

3. Carefully describe **each** of the following characters: President Trujillo, “La Fea”—his sister, and “The Gangster”—Dionoso. Why is each character important to the story and how are both Beli’s life and La Inca’s life affected/changed forever by their dealings with this corrupt political regime and those people listed above? Be specific. (3 paragraphs or more).

4. Although Oscar, Lola and Junior were raised in the United States they are all affected by Dominican culture and expectations. **Explain how each of the three characters listed above has been affected and shaped by Dominican culture and expectations.** Think about who wants to fit into the Dominican/Dominican—American culture, who rejects it, who accepts some parts of the culture and not other roles or parts. Be specific. (3 paragraphs or more)