Thematic points
1. What are the themes in Nayeri’s The Ungrateful Refugee?
2. What is the underlying message and purpose of the author’s writing? What compelled the author to write this book?
3. What are conflicting themes and dichotomies or opposites that are addressed by the author? How are they explored? For example, we’ve covered these and here’s more:
   - Ungrateful and grateful, unlucky/fate/destiny and luck, chance and opportunity, hope and hopelessness, uncertainty and certainty, refugee and citizen, survival and sustenance
   - Family/collective story and independence/individual story, truth telling and storytelling, truth and memory, proof and believability, frontline/firsthand/testimony and reporting/observing/secondhand, simplicity and complexity, identity and belonging, flexible/changeable and fixed, fixed identity and flexible/changeable identities, stories as unfolding/multiple layers and stories as linear
   - Welcome and charity, advocacy and charity, tragedy and being saved, tragedy and beauty/resilience, forced displacement and migration/movement, friendship and paternalism, giving/serving and receiving/accepting, East and West

Writing and style
1. Why is a firsthand account important in this work or when talking about refugee issues? Is this work purely a writing of firsthand account? Why and why not?
2. As Nayeri’s first work in nonfiction and as a refugee herself, what is the writing style in terms of the story progression (staggering style) that she chose to use in writing her personal story and other refugee’s personal stories?
3. What are conflicts or contradictions that may possibly arise in a firsthand account stories? What are instances that the author explores this?

Perspectives
1. What are the differing points of view between her story and her brother Daniel’s story and their family’s experience as refugees? How does her story contrast with the stories that she covers?
2. How are memories reliable? Why is storytelling necessary? How does the author convey these concepts?
3. What are instances and experiences in the book that we can draw from other sources, authors and happenings in the world? From her message, how might other sources support or understate/minimize/devalue her message?