Directions: Read Richard Rodriguez’s “Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” and answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Be prepared to discuss this text tomorrow.

**Questions on Meaning**

1. Rodriguez’s essay is both memoir and **ARGUMENT**. What is the author’s argument? What is the overall EFFECT of the shifts between memoir and argument? Do they strengthen or weaken the author’s stance on bilingual education?
2. According to the author, what impact did the Rodriguez children’s use of English have on relationships within the family?

**Questions on Writing Strategy**

1. Examine how Rodriguez uses **DESCRIPTION** to **COMPARE and CONTRAST** the sounds of English and Spanish (paras. 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 33, 37). What sounds does he evoke? What are the differences among them?
2. Rodriguez’s argument is supported mainly by personal **NARRATIVE**—his own experiences. What kind of ETHICAL APPEAL does the narrative make?

**Question on Language**

1. In Rodriguez’s essay, how do the words *public* and *private* relate to the issue of bilingual education? What important distinction does the author make between *individuality* and *separateness*?

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