

Name: _____

Date: _____

Elían González

On Thanksgiving Day, 1999, two boaters found a five-year-old boy named Elián González clinging to a raft. Two days earlier, his mother and stepfather and nine other people were killed when their boat capsized. Elián was the only survivor.

American Immigration officials delivered the boy to his great uncle, Lazaro González, a Cuban exile who lived in Miami. Elián’s father lived in Cuba and was divorced from his mother. He demanded that the boy be returned home to him. Lazaro González refused; he said that returning Elián to Cuba would be equivalent to child abuse.

America’s vocal anti-Castro Cuban community demanded that Elián be allowed to stay in America.

American law clearly states that Elián’s father—his closest living blood relative—had the right to have his son returned to him. Lazaro argued in court that an exception should be made in this extraordinary case. United States Attorney General Janet Reno tried to persuade Lazaro to give the boy to his father, but he refused.

Ms. Reno ordered immigration agents to seize Elián from Lazaro’s house and return him to his father. Elián had flown to America and agreed to stay until the American courts resolved the problem. The court ruled unanimously that Elián must live with his closest blood relative. The day of the ruling, Elián and his father returned home to Cuba, seven months after Elián arrived in Miami.



Agents seize Elián González

Fill in the Blanks

Many Cubans tried to leave the *i_____ in order to reach America. They often resorted to b_____ and r_____ that were not seaworthy. Many *p_____ at s_____. On T_____, Day, 1999, two boaters found a f_____ year old boy named E_____ González c_____ to a r_____. Elián was the only s_____ of the t_____ people who left Cuba. His m_____ and s_____ were among the p_____ killed when their boat c_____.

American I_____ officials delivered E_____ to his u_____, a Cuban e_____ living in M_____. Elián’s f_____ demanded the boy be r_____ to him in C_____. Elián’s u_____ refused. American l_____ states that the c_____ living b_____ relative has the right of *c_s_o_y in cases like this. When Elián’s u_____ refused to r_____ Elián to his f_____, United States A_____ General Janet R_____ ordered i_____ agents to s_____ Elián from his u_____’s house and r_____ him to his f_____.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*1. Why did Lazaro González refuse to return Elián to his father in Cuba?

2. Why did Janet Reno want to return Elián to Cuba?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.