U Is Part Of Us questions

1. Describe the main character and her two brothers Michael and Alan. How does each of them react to Nona’s behavior?
2. What is the main conflict in the story?
3. Why does Kathleen feel embarrassed about telling her friends of her mother’s condition?
4. Describe the mom’s character before her breakdown. How do you know?
5. Explain the symbolism of the puzzle. (pg. 42)
6. In what ways did life change for the family after the mother was hospitalized? (pg. 39)
7. In what ways did Kathleen change (perspective, behaviour) after her mom’s breakdown?
8. Discuss: Should the family have to change or should mom (Nona) just accept the reality of having 3 children?
9. What is a mental illness? Why can’t Nona just “turn that frown upside down”?
10. What is the main message of the story?