

**Discussion Questions for
“Country of Longitudinal Essences”,
from Isabel Allende’s
*MY INVENTED COUNTRY: A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY THROUGH CHILE***

1. What do you learn from this passage about the geography and topography of Chile? Why do you think Allende chooses to begin her book this way?
2. In her discussion of the “big North” section of Chile, how does she use imagery to convey her feelings about the area? Which images do you find particularly vivid?
3. Which of the four regions does she make most appealing? How does she use specific word choices to do this?
4. According to Allende, how has the geography of Chile affected the national character?
5. Re-read the last two sentences of the handout, beginning with “These are the other faces of Chile....” What does Allende mean when she talks about the “faces of Chile”? What other “faces” does that country present to travelers there?
6. What “faces” might someone see on a visit to the United States? To your neighborhood? In your group, develop a description of at least four “faces” one might expect to see.