Monkey Beach Reading Section Two (pp. 73-138) – Respond to each of these questions in an answer of 1-2 paragraphs.

1. Read the following passage from page 131-132 and relate its significance to anything that has happened so far in the novel. Who do you think the little red man is? Why does he visit Lisamarie? What is his significance? Why does she wish he wouldn’t appear? Why does she experience emotional pain in his presence?

*The little man woke me before dawn, his eyes glittering and black. The Winnie the Pooh stories end with Christopher Robin saying he’s too old to play with Pooh Bear. Little Jackie Piper leaves Puff the Magic Dragon. Childhood ends and you grow up and all your imaginary friends disappear. I’d convinced myself that the little man was a dream brought on by eating dinner too late – Mom had told me she always dreamed of earthquakes if she ate too much lasagna. Sometimes he came dressed like a leprechaun, but that night he had on his strange cedar tunic with little amulets dangling around his neck and waist. His hair was standing up like a troll doll’s, a wild, electric red. He did a tap dance on my dresser. Then he slipped, fell into my laundry basket and pulled my sweaters and T-shirts over his head. The basket tipped over and rolled beneath the window. I watched it warily, my chest aching so hard I couldn’t catch my breath.*

1. Read the following passage from page 93 and relate its significance to the novel so far. How is the oolichan important to the Haisla people? Discuss the analogy (comparison) made between Dom Perignon (really expensive champagne) and oolichan grease.

*Oolichans spawn in other rivers on the northwest coast like the Chilcat, Nass, Skeena, Kimsquit, Bella Coola, Oweenkeno, Kingcome, and Fraser rivers. Each place has its own way of spelling and pronouncing “oolichans,” so the fish are also known as eulachons, ooligans, ulicans, hollikans, and oulachens. Other people make oolichan grease too, but Mom always said, “Ours is the Dom Perignon of grease.”*

*When I was a kid, I always assumed Dom Perignon was another kind of fish oil. I was very disappointed when I found out it was just a champagne, like Baby Duck, which I’d snuck a sip of one New Year’s Eve and hated. I coughed, spitting and sneezing as the bubbles tingled sharply up my nose.*

1. Pick your favourite passage from what you have read so far. Write it down as well as the page number(s). How does the passage you have chosen relate to the plot of the novel up to page 138? What kinds of identity issues do you see emerging? Discuss.