1.) Key Ideas and Details

Summarize: Describe Galarza's experiences as a newcomer in school.

Ernesto is afraid and wants to hide behind his mother. Miss Hopley seems very large to him, but he can sense that she is kind. His teacher, Miss Ryan, also seems large, but she is patient and kind. Soon he starts to get good at speaking English.
2.) Key Ideas and Details

(a) Why is Galarza afraid of Miss Ryan at first?

He is suspicious of tall, energetic teachers who loom over their students.

(b) Interpret: What does Galarza mean when he says Miss Ryan "was with it" and "with us"?

He means that Miss Ryan understands the children's difficulties and that she uses her knowledge to help them.
3.) Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**Analyze:** What experiences in Lincoln School help Galarza realize his dream of "becoming a proud American"?

The people at Lincoln School helped Galarza remain proud of his heritage while preparing him for life in the United States.
4.) Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

(a) What is the unknown that frightens Galarza in this story?

Galarza is frightened by the unknown of a new teacher, a new language and a new class.

(b) How does Galarza use his experience at school to discover the truth about those around him? [Connect to the Big Question: What is the best way to find the truth?]

Galarza uses his experience at school to discover that he can learn from and about his classmates, who were of an assortment of nationalities. He also discovers that he is not alone in learning about a new language and culture.