

Between Us and Abuela:

A Family Story from the Border

Classroom applications: activities and reflection questions

Prepared by



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Listed here are prompts that you can expand upon for developing your own plans for classroom activities. This is an interactive document, choose a text color and write some notes about the projects and activities that would work for you or jot down some ideas that you developed.

Project and Activity Ideas

1. Geography of the Border and defining borders.
 - Explore the geography and topography of the U.S. Mexico border in San Diego/Tijuana and Southern California.
 - Examine definitions and purposes of borders. Do natural borders exist? Are there natural borders or barriers to movement between the U.S. and Mexico? How do they differ from man made borders?
2. Family origin stories.
 - Engage students in a research project on their families origins. Some writing/research prompts to consider:
 1. Is your family indigenous to the U.S.?
 2. To the Americas?
 3. Who immigrated here?
 4. From where?
 5. When?
 - Are there holidays or celebrations that your family values? Please share...

Guided Reading Questions:

1. What gifts did Maria and Juan make for their Abuela?
2. How did each side of the family arrive at the Border?
3. Why were the children not able to pass their gifts to their Abuela?
4. How did they resolve the problem of passing the drawing?

Reflection Questions (These are questions you can prepare your own answers for but also pose to students)

1. How did you feel when you learned that the children could only see their Abuela through a fence?

This can be a letter writing prompt/project/assignment:

2. If you only get to see your extended family for short periods of time, what would you tell them when you see them?
3. If there are members of your extended family that you have not met/would like to meet, what you ask them? What would you tell them about yourself?

Additional Reading and Research

Author website:

<https://www.mitaliperkins.com/p/welcome-to-my-virtual-fire-escape.html>

Illustrator website:

<https://www.sarapalaciosillustrations.com>

One page teacher's guide from CLASP:

<http://claspprograms.org/uploads/Between Us and Abuela-1603808312.pdf>

Recording of a book talk with Mitali Perkins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGJyt7EnVWo>

UC San Diego Border Studies Resources:

<https://ucsd.libguides.com/c.php?g=408733&p=3091512>

An exploration of Border Walls:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/a-brief-history-of-border-walls>

Mexican Immigration to the United States:

<https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-146#acrefore-9780199329175-e-146-div1-5>