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SL55. Interesting People: Reyna Grande

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Introduction

What are some reasons people immigrate to the United States? What are the reasons you or people you know immigrated here?

What are some hardships faced by people immigrating to this country? What hardships have you or people you know experienced?

How do you think the experience of immigrating to a new country is different for children than for adults? Is it easier or more difficult? Why do you think so?

Reyna Grande is a Mexican-American author living in the United States. Her writing draws heavily on her childhood experience in Mexico and as an undocumented immigrant in the United States. One of her books, *The Distance Between Us*, is a memoir, the true story of her life before and after entering the U.S. illegally at the age of nine. She says she decided to write the true story "to shed light on the complexities of immigration and how immigration affected {her} entire family in both positive and negative ways."

In this SDLA, we will talk about the issues faced by immigrants, and especially undocumented child immigrants, through Reyna Grande's experience and writing.





Section 2: Immigration: Truths and Falsehoods

Go to the tutoring website to view the [presentation on immigration truths and falsehoods](#). Then, answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the tutor.

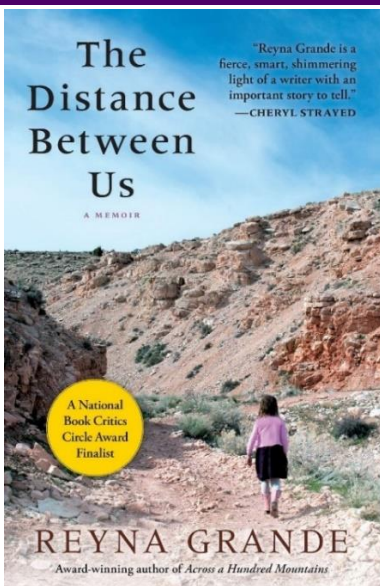
- What did you learn in this presentation? Did you have any ideas that you thought were true that ended up being false? What were they? How do you feel about that?

Did seeing this presentation change any feelings or attitudes that you have about the United States or immigrants? Why or why not?

- If you feel comfortable sharing, what was your immigration experience like to the United States?

- What are some potential ideas for solutions to some of the immigration issues we face in this country?

Section 3: The Distance Between Us



Reyna Grande's memoir, *The Distance Between Us*, tells the story of her childhood, both before and after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border when she was ten years old.

Reyna's father left the family in Mexico when she was two years old to find work in the United States. She, her mother, and her two older siblings continued to live in poverty in Guerrero, Mexico. When she was four years old, her mother went to join her father to help him earn money, and the children were taken to live with a grandmother.

[Listen to Reyna read this excerpt](#) (part of the book) about the day her mother left for the United States. Then, answer the questions on the next page.





Note: Reyna sometimes includes Spanish words in her English writing. For example, when she talks about the United States, she sometimes says *El Otro Lado*, which means “the other side.” This is what she and her siblings called the United States when they were living in Mexico. Take a look at these other Spanish words she uses and their English equivalents.

Abuelita=grandma

Papí=Dad, Daddy

El Chavo del Ocho=a Mexican television sitcom about the silly adventures of an poor orphan boy

Tío=uncle

Where is Reyna’s mother going? Why is she leaving? How long will she be gone?

Why does little Reyna want to protect and save the picture of her father (Papí)?

Why did Reyna’s father go to the United States? How old was Reyna when he left?

Imagine that you are either Reyna’s mother or her father. How would you feel if you had to leave your children to find work in another country?

Bonus Activity: A Migrant’s Story

This activity is not required. It is an extra activity for you to enjoy doing if you wish.

[Watch the video of Reyna Grande reading her short story, “A Migrant’s Story.”](#) In this short story, Grande describes how the migration journey of the monarch butterfly is similar to her story of migration from Mexico to the United States.

According to Grande, how is the monarch’s migration similar to the experience of immigrating to the United States?





Do you relate to (feel a connection with) the journey of the monarch butterfly? Why or why not? Discuss your response with a tutor.





Section 5: What Did I Learn

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET. 	I can do this WITH help. 	I can do this WITHOUT help. 	I can TEACH this to a classmate. 
I can discuss the reasons people immigrate to the United States and the hardships that they might face.				
I can identify truths and common misconceptions about immigrants in the United States.				
I can imagine myself as a character in a story and think about their ideas and feelings.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good job!

Now go to the [LLC Tutoring Website](#) and make an appointment with a tutor.

Visit the [Virtual LLC](#) at the time of your appointment.








Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. The tutor will give you feedback.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

☐ **Congratulations! Keep going.**

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

☐ **Work on this more.**

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

