

AN EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO



Companion to the
Newbery Honor-winning book *Mexikid*!





ABOUT THE BOOK

In this extraordinary graphic memoir companion to Newbery Honor winner *Mexikid*, hilarious family hijinks, immigration patrols, and musical daydreams shape a year of growth and change for a Mexican American boy and his family.



ABOUT THE CREATOR

PEDRO MARTÍN is a former Hallmark artist and the creator of *Asteroid Andy*. He chronicles his life growing up Mexican American online in a comic series and in his debut graphic memoir, both called *Mexikid*.



CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE FOR THE FIRST MEXIKID!

About the author of this guide: Luz Yadira Herrera teaches future bilingual teachers at California State University, Dominguez Hills. She is an author and mother to Remi, a 13-year-old Mexi (and Najja) kid of her own.

PRAISE FOR Mexikid Dreams

★ "Insightful, moving, hilarious—it's **SIMPLY A MASTERPIECE**. Every library should have one or more copies of this must-have."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "The true heart of the story is the immigrant family working hard to make ends meet and provide better opportunities for the next generation . . .

Mexikid is back, and he's **AS HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT AS EVER**: more, please!"

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "An accomplished, poignant, and compassionate family chronicle that's enlivened with **PITCH-PERFECT KID-HUMOR**."

—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "Martín's **IMPECCABLE COMEDIC CHOPS BALANCE LITERAL POTTY HUMOR . . . WITH INTROSPECTION**.

As Pedro yearns to be like other kids while recognizing the extent of the sacrifices made by his parents and preceding generations."

—*The Horn Book*, starred review

CHAPTER 1

1. Both the first chapter and the epilogue reintroduce the Martín family in this sequel to *Mexikid*. What do we know about what caused the family to move from Southern California to the Central Coast of California? What led them to become a sharecropping family?

FAMILY GUIDE: SEE. THINK. WONDER.

WHO DO YOU SEE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT DO YOU WONDER?

2. On page 12, Pedro says, "We were a family of sharecroppers." What is a sharecropper? Why do you think Pedro said, "We were never going to be anything else"?
3. How do you think Apá (Pedro's dad) feels about being a family of sharecroppers?
4. Pedro says that being in the fields was his every summer and weekend as long as he could remember. How do your summers and weekends compare to Pedro's and his family's?
5. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** What do you and your family like to do together? What responsibilities do you have in your household?





CHAPTER 2



1. Chapter 2 opens with Pedro wanting to stay home on a Saturday morning, wishing he could do "normal" kid things like watching cartoons instead of picking strawberries in a cold field. He feels it is "unfair." Have you ever felt something was unfair in your family? What did you do?
2. Lila, Pedro's older sister, explains sharecropping, a system that became common during the Reconstruction Era after slavery ended. How was sharecropping similar to slavery, and how was it different?
3. Pedro begins to understand the reason why sharecropping is a "family affair." Based on what you've read so far, what might be the benefits and drawbacks of sharecropping within a family?
4. After the conversation with Lila, Pedro says they are a family of "free immigrants" and therefore must be treated fairly by the landowners (page 24). What might Pedro begin to understand after his conversation with Lila regarding their life as an immigrant family?

CHAPTER 3

1. Pedro walks us through a regular workday in the fields: the clothes that protect their skin, the cart that carries the strawberries they pick, and the radio that keeps them entertained. What stands out about his descriptions?
2. Pedro mentions that listening to music on the radio was one of the best parts of their day on the field. How did the music preferences vary from person to person? What music do you like to listen to? How is that different from your friends or family?
3. What do you notice about the family dynamics with the music they enjoy while working in the fields?
4. Complete a five-senses chart based on Pedro's description of being in the strawberry fields.

FIVE SENSES	WHAT IS IT?	SKETCH.
See		
Hear		
Taste		
Smell		



CHAPTERS 4 + 5

1. Chapter 4 is all about the outhouse and the horrors within it. Have you ever seen an outhouse? What would you do if you were Pedro?
2. Pedro learns that his older brother Sal was able to skip work in the fields and get a different job. How does Pedro feel about this change?
3. How does Sal's departure from the fields inspire Pedro?
4. What does Pedro's dad tell him about planning for the future (which means leaving the fields)?
5. What advice does Lila give Pedro as he's thinking about possible careers that could help him leave the fields?

CHAPTERS 6 + 7

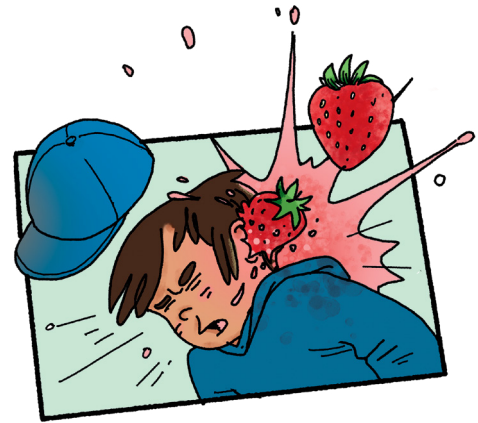
1. In chapter 6, we learn that Pedro's dad hired some workers to help since Sal left to work elsewhere. What does Pedro learn about the new workers?
2. What does Pedro learn about his dad's life in this chapter?
3. What is the **Bracero Program**? How did it impact Pedro's family?
4. In chapter 7, Pedro faces new responsibilities. How does he perform in his new role?
5. Why does Elvis appear in the middle of a strawberry field?
6. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Learn more about the **Bracero Program**. Conduct research to learn about this significant period of US history. Prepare a short presentation or report, sharing some key insights.





CHAPTERS 8 + 9

1. In chapter 8, "The Other Kids," we get a glimpse of a regular day in Pedro's life. How is Pedro's life different from that of "other" kids?
2. According to Pedro, what is the difference between the "other" kids and immigrant farm kids? See page 85.
3. In chapter 9, we finally get a glimpse of Pedro's school life and how he relates to his peers. What does he say about the different kinds of kids in his school?
4. Why is Pedro so excited to tell Ginny about Tony?
5. How does Pedro's view of Tony change across the chapter?
6. How does Pedro's family react to him playing the trombone for his school's band?
7. On pages 98-99, Pedro talks about the "Hierarchy of Careers" that Mexican parents supposedly want for their children. What stands out about this list?
8. What would you guess your family's "hierarchy of careers" is for you? How is it different from what you want to be when you grow up?



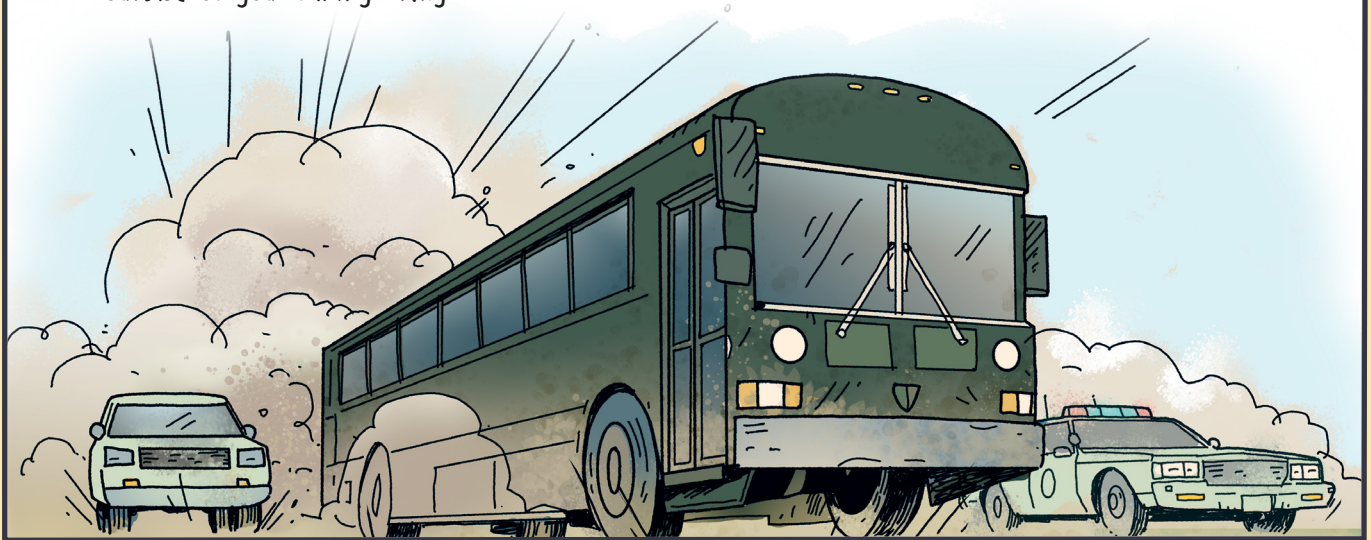
CHAPTER 10

1. Chapter 10 shows the importance of the Penny Club and the Penny Club Band to Pedro, his family, and the community. What are some things that Pedro enjoys about being part of this club?
2. What are some after-school or extracurricular activities you enjoy? What is something new you want to explore this year?
3. What else do we learn about Pedro in this chapter?



CHAPTERS 11–12

1. What are some challenges of being an immigrant working in the fields?
2. How do Pedro and his family respond to a raid by immigration officials?
3. What happens in the aftermath of Pedro's family's experience with "La Migra"?
4. In chapter 12, we learn about what happens in the fall, or the offseason, meaning when the family is not out in the fields. How does the family survive during this time?
5. What do we learn about what Pedro's dad (Apá) does during the offseason?
6. Pedro often asks Lila for advice. Why do you think that is? What do you notice about Lila in this chapter?
7. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Who do you go to for advice? Who makes you feel safe inside and/or outside of your family? Why?



CHAPTER 13

1. It's tamale season for the Martín family. What are tamales? Why might this be an important food for the Martín family?
2. What are some foods you and your family like to eat during different times of the year? What's your favorite?
3. What idea does Pedro get after hearing about his other brother's plan to get out of working in the fields?

CHAPTER 14

1. Pedro plays the trombone in many different places with the Penny Club Band. What stands out about this experience?
2. How does playing inside the prison impact Pedro?
3. How do Pedro and Alex recall the experience to Apá? What do Pedro and Alex learn from their conversation with their father?

CHAPTER 15

1. Throughout the book, we see that Pedro loves to draw; it's one of his favorite pastimes. What is your favorite pastime? Is it connected to what you want to be when you grow up? (It doesn't have to be.)
2. Lila, Pedro's older sister, has mentioned that he should pursue an art career (see page 57), and in this chapter, Mr. Smith says the same thing. How does Pedro respond? How does Pedro see art?
3. Mr. Smith presents Pedro with a new challenge involving "Braaad." How does Pedro feel about this? What do you think Pedro might do?
4. Why was it so important to Pedro to get the trombone solo? How is it connected to Pedro's career plans?

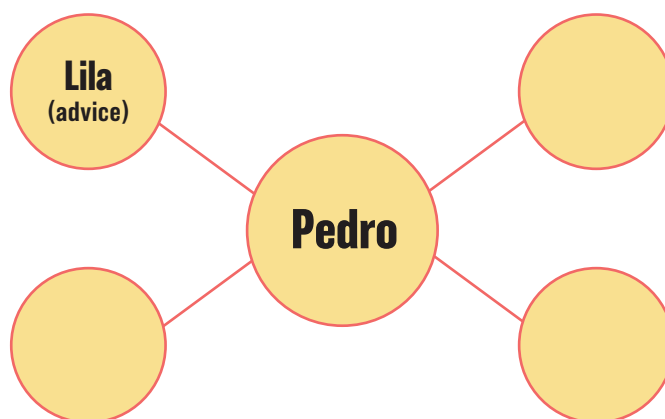


CHAPTERS 16–18

1. In chapter 16, we learn about Pedro's mother's healing abilities; he calls her a "curandera." What is something familiar or new to you about Amá's (Pedro's mom) approach to healing?
2. What are some things that your family does when you don't feel well? How is it similar or different from what Pedro's family does?
3. What do Pedro's siblings think about his "illness"?
4. What happens after Pedro learns that the spring concert is coming up?
5. Why is Pedro eager for his dad to see him play at the Spring concert?
6. What surprises does the Saturday workday bring to Pedro and his family?
7. How do Pedro's siblings try to sabotage his plans? What would you do if you were Pedro?
8. How does this chapter show how Pedro's family survives difficult times?
9. Why is that particular Saturday in the fields extra challenging for Pedro? Provide details.

CHAPTER 19

1. Pedro finds the strength to finish the workday and rushes to get ready for the spring concert. How does the family and other workers, like Cristóbal, help him?
2. How does the interaction between Ginny and Pedro show the ways they relate to each other?
3. The concert begins, and Lila is still the only one from his family watching him perform. Where is the rest of the family?
4. How does Pedro feel about his family missing his spring concert? How does Lila make him feel better?
5. Have you ever felt disappointed when a plan you made didn't work out? Who helps you feel better when something like that happens?
6. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Create a web that shows the important people in your life—for example, your friends, teachers, and family members—and how they help you. Include hand-drawn or digital images on your web, if you'd like. Here is an example using Pedro's life:



CHAPTERS 20 + 21

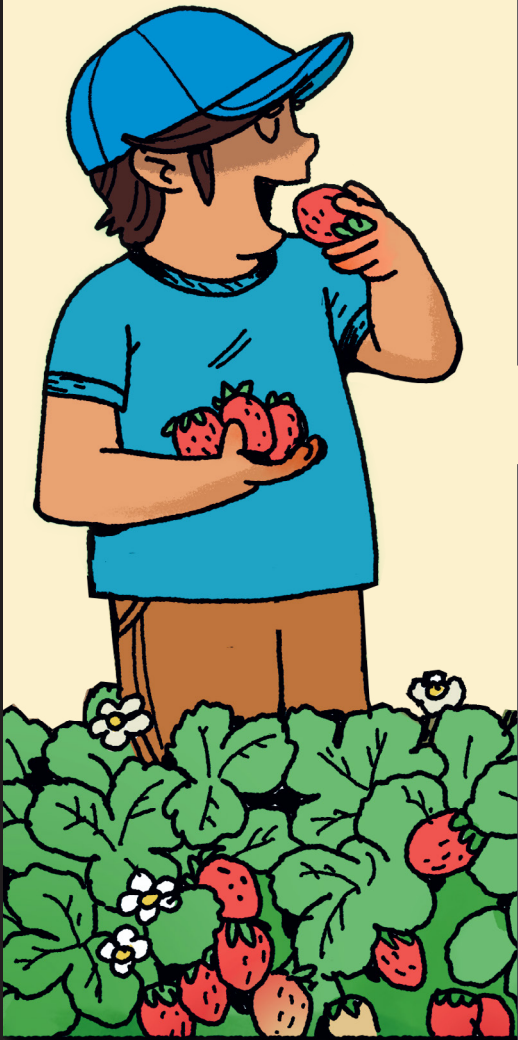
1. Chapter 20 describes "The Plan." What happens? What do you think Pedro will do next?
2. How does Lila continue to show support for Pedro?
3. Abuelo tells the family to get to bed early on a Saturday night so they can be ready to get up early to head to work in the fields on Sunday morning. How do different family members react to this news?
4. How do the siblings react to the whispers they hear at night coming from their parents' room?
5. Pedro finds out that he isn't the only one with a plan. How does he feel after learning about Apá's plans?

CHAPTER 22

1. Apá tells Pedro that he realizes can't keep Pedro working in the fields forever (page 247). How does Pedro feel when hearing this?
2. How do Abuelo and Apá help Pedro?
3. Why does Apá tell Pedro that he and his siblings have to find their "element"? What does this mean? What is your "element"?

CHAPTERS 23 + 24

1. This chapter marks a new beginning for Pedro and his family. What are some big changes that happen?
2. On page 257, Pedro says, "Where we were once a somewhat organized family workforce, now we were scattered all over the place." How does this make Pedro feel?
3. How does Pedro feel when he is finally able to do "ordinary kid" things? Why?
4. Pedro describes other kids as being "free from gravity." What does that mean? See page 262.



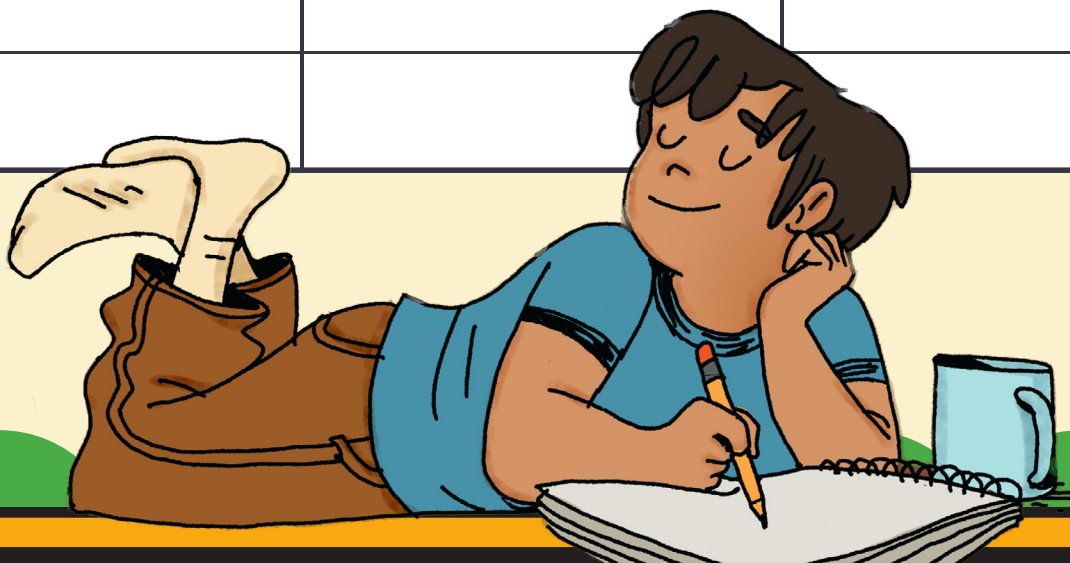
CHAPTERS 25 + 26

1. Pedro talks about how he feels when Amá cuddles with him. Why is he surprised?
2. The family receives tragic news. How do they respond?
3. What do you learn about immigrants from the family's conversations? What other questions do you have about why people leave their countries or immigrate?

CHAPTERS 27 + 28

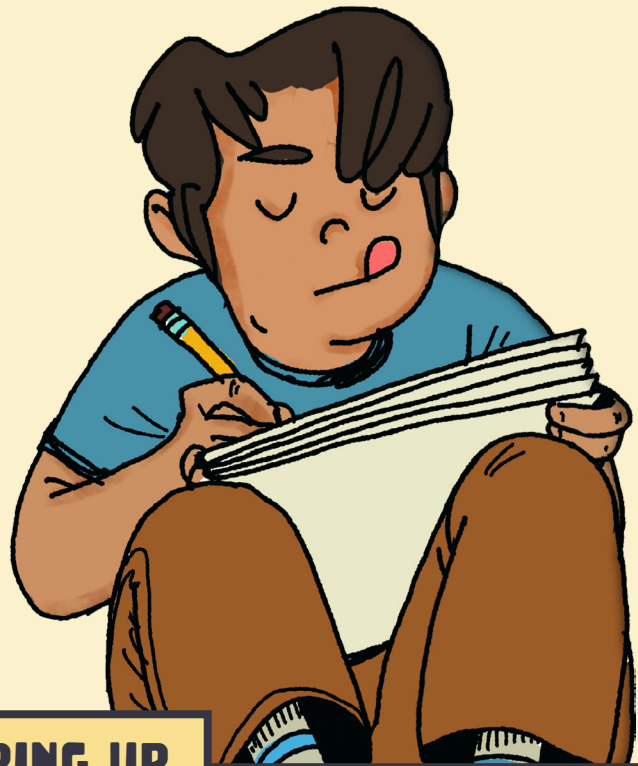
1. Chapter 27 shows the family back together in the fields. How do they make the best out of a tough situation?
2. Pedro and Abuelo have a conversation in the fields. What does Pedro learn from his grandfather? How does this conversation with his grandfather make Pedro see things from a different perspective?
3. Why does Lila say to Pedro, "Don't waste their sacrifices"? (See page 301).
4. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Create a **Character Change Timeline** that shows how Pedro's perspective about working in the fields changes over the course of the story. Use details from the book to support your ideas.

Beginning	Important events	End



EPILOGUE

1. The end of the book shows how the family changed. We also learn about each sibling's career path. What stands out to you the most?
2. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Consider what might happen next in your family or in your friends' lives. Create a three-part comic book story that details your predictions for the future of some important people in your life.



WRAPPING UP

1. Pedro's "daydreaming" is a big theme in the book. Why do you think it might be an important part of Pedro's story?
2. Why does the ghost of Elvis keep showing up throughout the story?
3. Think about how the author writes using English and Spanish throughout the story. How did this help you better understand the story and Pedro's family?
4. Reflect on the lessons on sacrifice that Pedro learns throughout the story another big theme in the book. What are some connections you can make to Pedro in his journey?
5. What other themes can you identify in the story?
6. The author, Pedro Martín, shares a collage with images of his real-life family at the end of the book. What else do you learn about the author's family?
7. **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Create a paper-based or digital collage that captures your family and/or community. Add captions beneath each image, providing details about each person and how they are important in your life.