

The Red Umbrella

Written by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Yearling

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304 pages | \$7.99 | Lexile: 590L



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Understanding how the tone of a story will affect the reader's mood throughout the text is an important connection. Christina Diaz Gonzalez chose to use actual news headlines from the 1960s as the chapter titles in *The Red Umbrella*, which establishes her attitude toward Castro's intention to take over Cuba. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to determine the connection between news headlines and setting the tone and mood of Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will be able to determine how the use of actual newspaper headlines from the historical time period help to shape the mood and tone of the book.
2. Students will be able to determine connotative meaning from headlines used as chapter titles.
3. Students will be able to connect use of headline news titles to the author's point of view.

MATERIALS NEEDED

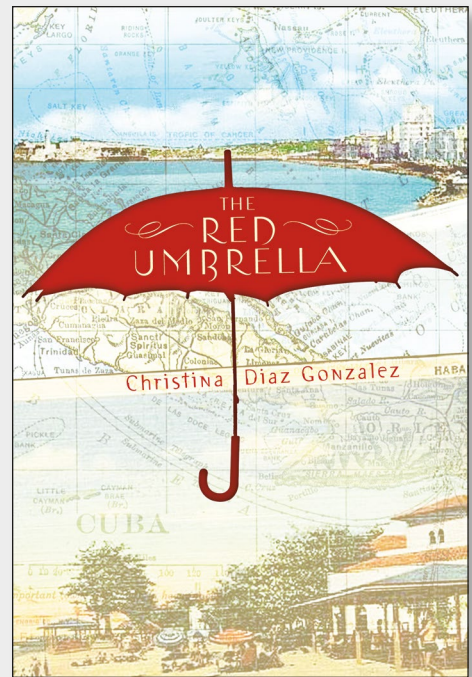
- Copy of *The Red Umbrella*, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez
- The Extra! Extra! Read all about it... worksheet

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

As a pre-reading activity, students will analyze the first eight chapter titles in, *The Red Umbrella*. Students will determine which words from the headlines create positive and negative connotations and contribute to the mood of the book. Finally, students will determine the author's feeling on the topic of Fidel Castro's actions to take over Cuba (tone).

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SUMMARY

In 1961 after Castro came to power in Cuba, fourteen-year-old Lucia and her seven-year-old brother were sent to the United States when her parents, who are not in favor of the new regime, fear that the children will be taken away from them as others have been.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it....

Christina Diaz Gonzalez decided to use real newspaper headlines from 1961 to begin each chapter of, *The Red Umbrella*. You will analyze each news headline to determine how the headline shapes the mood and tone of the text. For each headline determine which word(s) have a positive or negative connotation (feeling). Determine the overall mood by deciding what feeling the words create and determine Gonzalez's tone and feeling about the topic.

CHAPTER 1: "Castro Rules Out Elections In Cuba" *New York Times*, May 2, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood
<i>Elections</i>	<i>Rules Out</i>	<i>Negative: Castro is no longer allowing elections in Cuba. People will no longer have the ability to vote.</i>

CHAPTER 2: "U.S Brands Cuba Communist State, Says Castro Outdoes Soviet in Barring Vote, Likens His Rallies to Hitler's" *New York Times*, May 3, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

CHAPTER 3: "Non-Cuban Priests to be Expelled, Says Castro" *The Miami Herald*, May 3, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

CHAPTER 4: "Crime to Have Foreign Money in Cuba Now" *The Valley Independent*, May 6, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

CHAPTER 5: "New Cuban Policy Planned by U.S." *The Daily Inter Lake*, May 7, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

CHAPTER 6: "Castro Holds Life Cheap" *The Charleston Gazette*, May 25, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

CHAPTER 7: "Three Invaders Face Castro's Firing Squad" *The Salina Journal*, May 25, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

CHAPTER 8: "Polls Indicate Castro Will Soon Go Too Far" *The Progress*, May 26, 1961

Positive	Negative	Overall Mood

How do you believe the author, Christina Diaz Gonzalez, feels about Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba?