

Areli is a Dreamer

Written by Areli Morales, Illustrated by Luisa Uribe

Random House Studio
978-1-984893-99-4 | Hardcover
40 pages | \$17.99 | Lexile: AD550L



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Areli is a Dreamer by Areli Morales and Luisa Uribe is a true story about a young girl who comes to the United States to live with her parents and can help children understand the challenges and rewards of being an immigrant. In this lesson, students will focus on the skill of interpreting illustrations in a piece of literature.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will define illustrations in a text.
2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of an illustration by interpreting it.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Areli is a Dreamer* by Areli Morales and Luisa Uribe pages 15 and 16
- I Spy With My Little Eye Worksheet

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This book focuses on helping children understand what it's like to be an immigrant through the story of a young girl. There are two pages that are exclusively told through illustrations. Reading illustrations creates a new demand on student cognitive thinking. In this lesson, students will view a full page of illustrations focusing on Areli's trip from Mexico to the United States and interpret the meaning of these illustrations.

Finding Your Place in the World: *Lessons for Reading and Writing*



SUMMARY

When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family—and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too.

Everything in New York was different. Gone were the Saturdays at Abuela's house, filled with cousins and sunshine. Instead, things were busy and fast and noisy. Areli's limited English came out wrong, and schoolmates accused her of being illegal. But with time, America became her home. And she saw it as a land of opportunity, where millions of immigrants who came before her paved their own paths. She knew she would, too.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (cont'd)

- The teacher will read *Areli is a Dreamer* by Areli Morales. The focus pages will be pages 15 and 16.
- Questions to consider before focusing on the illustrations to help students connect:
 1. Have any of you experienced moving from one country to another? From one state to another? Did you have trouble adjusting to the new place?
 2. Have you ever experienced being the new kid at school? In your neighborhood?
- Refer to the I Spy with My Little Eye Worksheet
- Project the illustrations from *Areli is a Dreamer* on pages 15-16 or divide students into groups and provide one copy of the book to each group.
- Students will study the illustrations on pages 15 and 16 and complete the I Spy with My Little Eye Worksheet.

Key Ideas:

- Illustration 1- Areli must ride in a truck with the man to the bus terminal. She is leaving her home in Mexico. Areli is alone with the stranger. She has left her family.
 - Illustration 2- Areli waits with the man at the bus terminal. She looks scared because she is holding his hand.
 - Illustration 3- Areli is traveling on the bus to see her parents. She is looking out the window and knows
 - Illustration 4- Areli has arrived in a bustling city that is crowded with people and has big buildings. This is the complete opposite of her experience in Mexico.
- The teacher will read *Areli is a Dreamer* by Areli Morales. The focus pages will be pages 15 and 16.

I Spy with My Little Eye

Directions: *Areli is a Dreamer* is a true story about a young girl who comes to the United States to live with her parents. Areli Morales's children's book also includes beautiful illustrations by Luisa Uribe. In one part of the story, the author chooses to tell her story ONLY with illustrations. Study the illustrations on pages 15 and 16 and interpret the meaning in the boxes below.

Illustration	What does the reader learn?
Illustration 1	
Illustration 2	
Illustration 3	
Illustration 4	
Why do you think the author chose not to put any words with the illustrations?	