

Lupita Mañana

Writing Prompts



ISBN-10 0-380-73247-5

ISBN-13 978-0-380-73247-0

Author Beatty, Patricia

Publisher HarperCollins

Copyright 1981

Lexile 760L

Genre Young adult fiction

Synopsis After her father dies in a fishing boat accident in the seas near their small Mexican village, Lupita's family is left in poverty. Lupita and her big brother, Salvador, must smuggle themselves into the United States to earn money to support their mother and young siblings. America is not the land of opportunity they had hoped. A new language, hard labor, and the constant threat of la migra -- the immigration police--make every day a difficult challenge. But for feisty Lupita, there is always hope for a better mañana -- tomorrow.

Themes Immigration and Migration, Perseverance

Protagonist Latino American

Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 1



Key Paragraph, p.16

"Ay de mí, what would become of them now? The wages Mamá was paid at the hotel were too small to support the seven of them, and Lupita earned only centavos for her errands. Although he had tried hard, Salvador could find no work in Ensenada. He was too old to shine tourists' shoes or sell lottery tickets" (p. 16).

Writing Task

Lupita and her family have just lost the primary breadwinner in their family with the death of their father and husband. Think about a time in your life or stories you have read when there is suffering from a major setback, disappointment, or tragedy.

Write 2-3 narrative paragraphs in which you focus on suffering from a major setback, disappointment, or tragedy. Engage the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters. Organize an event sequence that unfolds logically.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 2



Key Paragraph, p. 30

“He gave his sister a look of pain. ‘They will never let me see her again. She told me once if she could not marry me, she’d become a nun.’

Lupita sighed, ‘Perhaps *mañana* will be better for you and her, Salvador.’

Angry, scornful laughter burst from Salvador. ‘*Mañana, mañana, mañana*. Always it will be better tomorrow,’ he shouted at a shocked Lupita” (p. 30).

Writing Task

We have all had times in our lives when bad things have happened, or events did not go the way you had hoped them to go. Lupita did not expect for her father to die, nor did she expect Captain Ortega to treat Salvador the way he did. However, Lupita stays optimistic and tries to make Salvador feel better with words of encouragement.

Add to your narrative from the previous day. Think about a time in your life when you suffered a loss, or a major disappointment. Add a character that tries to encourage the person suffering. How do they respond to the support? Write a paragraph in which you answer all of the above questions. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 3



Key Paragraph, p. 34

“Salvador gripped one of her wrists. ‘Listen to me. I know that the *gringos* do not want us unless we have special papers from them that will allow us to live there. I have heard men talk about that sort of thing. You and I can visit a short time as the *gringo* tourists visit here in Mexico, but the *gringos* do not want us to live and work in their country. We are not going to be welcome” (p. 34).

Writing Task

Like Lupita and Salvador, many times we are called upon to do something that is very hard and very challenging, something that pulls us out of our “comfort zone”.

Write 1-2 narrative paragraphs about a time in your life that you were asked to do something outside of your comfort zone. What were the challenges and obstacles you faced? How did you overcome them, or did you overcome them? Were you able to count on any type of outside support or encouragement? What was the outcome of your experience?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 4



Key Paragraph, p. 47

“She stole a glance at his face as they walked along. It was sullen with helpless fury at all the bad luck that had befallen them lately. But at least Salvador still had his knife, something that meant as much to him as Papá’s silver cross did to her” (p. 47).

Writing Task.

Most of us have a single item that means a lot to us, such as Salvador’s knife or the cross that Lupita had that belonged to her father.

In 1-2 descriptive paragraphs, describe one item or keepsake you have that means a lot to you? Why is it so important to you? Do you keep it with you at all times, or do you have a special place for it? Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to describe the item/keepsake.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 5



Key Paragraph, p. 58

“He sighed. ‘You cannot go over there on credit if there is no one there ready to pay for you. So you must pay me now for your forged papers and to guide you across.’ Tomás held all the cards in one pudgy hand while he stared at Lupita out of eyes that were no longer merry. ‘Here in Tijuana we use *gringo* money, dollars, as often as we use pesos. To take you over the border with me, I want two hundred dollars from each of you. That comes to around four thousand pesos” (p. 58).

Writing Task

In this book, as in life, there are people like Tomás Garcia who prosper and make their livelihood by taking advantage of other people. Everyone has probably been taken advantage of by someone at one time or another.

Write 1-2 narrative paragraphs about a time in your own life in which someone has taken advantage of you. What were your feelings and reactions to being taken advantage of? How were you deceived? What did you learn, if anything, from the experience? What advice would you give someone to save them from making the same mistake that you did?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 6



Key Paragraph, p. 68

"Lupita began to tremble. What would she and Salvador do? They had gotten over the border, but only for minutes and those few minutes could have easily cost them their lives. How right Salvador had been when he said there could be robbers on both sides!" (p. 68).

Writing Task

Write 1-2 narrative paragraphs about a time in your life that, much like Lupita and Salvador you were faced with a difficult situation where the odds were against you, and you did the right thing. Write about how you handled the situation. Tell your reader how you showed responsibility in your actions. If you did not show responsibility, tell how you could have handled the situation differently.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 7



Key Paragraph, p. 77

"Papá's cross! So this was Bartolo's price! Their dearest things, things they had never once considered selling to buy food. Lupita swallowed hard as her fingers closed protectively around the cross. But Salvador had given up his knife. She must give up Papá's cross also. Quickly she lifted the silver chain over her head, kissed the cross, and put it into Bartolo's open hand" (p. 77).

Writing Task

Sometimes in life, we are forced to part with an item, a person, an idea, or dream that means a great deal to us. Usually, this parting comes with a great deal of emotional turmoil (Ex: A child having to part with his/her security blanket, or favorite toy that they have outgrown.)

In 1-2 descriptive paragraphs, write about a time in your life where you had to make a sacrifice of something important to you, in particular, something that you gave up that either helped out someone else, or helped you out. Use a lot of details and give specifics about why your sacrifice was important to you.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 8



Key Paragraphs, p. 81

“Señor Rosario soon found the railroad tracks, and they all started walking northward. How fortunate they were to fall in with this clever Señor Rosario” (p. 81).

p. 83

“Lupita looked on in dismay as Señor Rosario and his family jumped out of their boxcar. To her surprise, three young Mexican men followed them. The railroad guards handcuffed Señor Rosario to one of the young men and handcuffed the other two together. Another guard led Señor Rosario’s weeping wife and children away. Tears came to Lupita’s eyes” (p. 83).

Writing Task

Write 1-2 reflective paragraphs about a time in your life that you had to trust someone to help you. How were you able to determine that this person was trustworthy? Explain how that person helped you, and how you benefited. Did this person prove worthy of your trust, or did they disappoint you? How did you and the person you had to trust act responsibly or irresponsibly in this situation?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 9



Key Paragraphs, p. 98

"Lupita stared gravely at him, then looked about her at the busy, noisy kitchen. 'I will not write her of the money we must pay for cards in order to work here. I will not tell her how we were robbed in Mexico or about the coyote or about the old man that was murdered. I won't tell her how hard it was for us in Tijuana. That would make her sad. I *will* tell her how we crossed over covered in vegetables. That will make her laugh, and Uncle Antonio too. I will not tell her about giving up Papá's cross or Dorotea's knife, but I will tell her we have good paying jobs here and that we will go to Indio as soon as we can'" (p. 98).

Writing Task

Lupita and Salvador make a decision that when they write home that they are not going to tell everything that has happened to them, and only write about the good things that have happened to them. We often do the same thing in our own lives, and for many different reasons.

Write 1-2 reflective paragraphs about a time in your life when you tried to protect the feelings of someone you cared about by withholding some or all of the facts or things that happened to you. What were you trying to protect them from? Did they ever find out all the facts? How were you being responsible by choosing not to reveal all?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 10



Key Paragraphs, p. 107

“Lupita looked up at the sky for the first stars. *Sí*, there was one, not far from the new moon, the very one she had pointed out as Papá’s star in Ensenada just last month. How long ago that seemed. Lupita’s chest tightened with the loneliness. The company in the little yellow house had not made up for the loss of her family” (p. 107).

Writing Task

Lupita begins to really feel lonely, after the loss of her father, the loss of her family as her and Salvador had to leave home, the loss of her father’s crucifix, and now the loss of her new friends in Colton.

Write 1-2 reflective paragraphs about a time in your life when you had to be separated from your family or your home for a period of time. How did you feel? What things did you think about from your home and family life that gave you comfort and made you feel safe and secure? How did being separated from them change you? (Ex. Did you appreciate them more? Less? Did you become bitter? Depressed?)

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 11



Key Paragraph, p. 119

“*Sí.*’ Aunt Consuelo shook her head. ‘We are crowded in this house. I am not rich. We have been lying to your mother for a long time. My husband wanted my family in Mexico to believe we were rich. *Ay de mí!* Hermilio!’ The woman pointed to her gray head. ‘Every gray hair here has its story.’ She finally backed away from the doorway. ‘Come in. After all, you are my sister’s kids’” (p. 119).

Writing Task

Think about a time in your life that you have really built up an event (Ex. Going on a trip, meeting someone you have always wanted to meet, eating in a restaurant you’ve always wanted to eat at), after which you were really disappointed with the outcome.

Write 1-2 narrative paragraphs in which you tell your reader about it. Be sure to detail what the situation was, what your expectations were, why you were disappointed, and how you resolved the situation. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 12



Key Paragraph, p. 128

“*Sí*, I came over and got a job as a maid. All I ever learned from the *gringa* I worked for were words like *vacuum cleaner*, *broom* and *mop*, *washing machine* and *clothesline*, things like that. She warned me not to go to night school because she was afraid *la migra* would catch me there. I worked for her for six years. Then I met Hermilio at a dance, and we got married. We always spoke Spanish to one another, and I did not go to work again. A few years ago I began to work in the fields where no one speaks anything but Spanish. I have no need of English. Neither will either of you” (p. 128).

Writing Task

Aunt Consuelo explains to the kids why she has never learned English after being in the United States for over twenty years. This as a result, however, has severely limited her choices in employment and the type of wages she could earn.

Write 1-2 reflective paragraphs about a time in your own life that you didn't do something to better yourself or your situation. Why didn't you do that thing? How has this affected you? Has it changed anything about you? What? Write about these things and tell your reader what you learned about yourself and the world in general in the process. Make sure to connect what you learned with your experience using transition words.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 13



Key Paragraph, p. 138

“In spite of her stiffness and sore hands, Lupita’s spirits lifted as the dawn approached. Sí, she would buy another dress and shoes to wear to church as soon as she could. The dawn sky was a pale rosy pink. As the truck jolted along, Lupita dreamed of a rose-pink dress. She would buy pink ribbons for the ends of her braids, too” (p. 138).

Writing Task

Even as bad as things have gone for Lupita as she and her brother have gone on this journey, Lupita has always seemed to have the ability to motivate herself to keep going. **Write a descriptive paragraph about your driving force and what “gets you in gear.” We all have motivating factors, a catalyst, in our lives that keeps us moving forward. What motivates you? What is the one thing that you think about that gets you going?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 14



Key Paragraph, p. 149

“Getting that cardboard box of brightly colored shirts, jackets, and trousers from Lucky had not helped his temper...Salvador still dressed in Papa’s clothing when he went to the fields, but Lupita could tell by the way he put on the black-and-white check coat and the felt hat that he disliked them for their shabbiness. *Ay de mi*, Salvador despised Papa’s coat. How could he?” (p. 149).

Writing Task

At one time or another, everyone has become distracted from a goal or task that they have been working on or moving towards. Distractions can come in many sizes, shapes, or colors. People can even be distractions at times.

Write a reflective paragraph about a time in your life when you were distracted from something you were trying to complete or accomplish. What actions did you take to become more responsible? How did you handle the situation? Were you able to overcome the distraction and stay on track, or did it sidetrack you from finishing or completing your task or goal?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 15



Key passage, p. 153

“Lupita stared in horror at her brother. He was looking at the floor. Mama had said they were to be together, and now he was leaving her!” (p. 153).

Writing Task

Think about a time in your life when you had someone that you really cared about, such as a best friend or a brother or sister, either move away from you physically, such as moving to a different city or part of the country, or move away from the friendship/relationship because one or both of you had changed.

In 1-2 narrative paragraphs, you describe the situation above. Tell your reader about the factors leading to the separation, and how you felt about it. Use details and descriptions that really help your reader understand what the loss meant to you, and how you might do things differently if given the opportunity.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 16



Key passage, p. 164

“In a flash Lucky was out from under the hood, glaring at her. He hissed under his breath, ‘Get away from me! I don’t want the boss to see you pestering me. He’s a *gringo*; he hates wetbacks. Get lost, *tonta!*’” (p. 164).

Writing Task

Lupita tried talking to Lucky about Salvador and how he is changing. However, Lucky becomes angry with Lupita and lashes out at her.

Write 1-2 reflective paragraphs describing a time when you tried making amends with someone and they reacted negatively. How were you trying to be responsible by resolving the issue? Why was it the right thing to do at the moment? What were the short-term and long-term outcomes?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 17



Key Passage, p. 173

“No, no,’ she cried out, ‘I don’t want to go to the baile.’

‘Be quiet, Lupita,’ her aunt ordered. ‘Salvador, you take your sister to the baile’”
(p. 173).

Writing Task

Write a reflective paragraph about a time when you had to go somewhere and you were reluctant to go. Why did you not want to go? What did people say or do to convince you to go, or did they convince you? If you ended up going, did you have a good time? Were the fears or insecurities you had going into the situation justified? Was going the right thing to do at the time?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 18



Key passage, p. 184

“Lupita shivered, thinking of what Rafael has said. Salvador and the others had been caught because they could not answer la migra’s questions in English. It was their lack of English that had betrayed them” (p. 184).

Writing Task

Think for a moment about a time in your life when you had to learn to do something that you thought was very hard and insurmountable. Lupita knew she had to learn English if she was going to survive in the U.S.

In a reflective paragraph, tell your reader about what your obstacle was and/or is, and what your plan might be to over come it. (Hint: You may be able to refer to your vision plan bookmark from week one in order to complete this prompt).

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lupita Mañana, Day 19-20



Final Writing Assignment

During the course of this novel in your daily writing prompts, you have accumulated at least eighteen short paragraphs, snapshots into your own life. In your *ALL* Write assignments for this novel you have covered a lot of material about writing, editing, and revising. Using the material you have already written as a rough draft, you are to put together a 500-700 word narrative piece about yourself in which you use some of the skills you have learned in this unit. It will be up to you to decide which snapshots to use, and which ones best tell your story. You may need to rewrite some of your snapshots so they smoothly transition from snapshot to snapshot. Be sure to use plenty of descriptive language, and be aware of your audience.

Responsibility is the active side of morality: doing what I should do, doing what I say I will do, doing what is best for everybody; especially doing the one thing I should be doing right now.