

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

An Island Like You, Introduction



Summary

An Island Like You by Judith Ortiz Cofer is a collection of short stories which follow the lives of teens who are caught between two cultures and who are stuck in the middle of childhood and adulthood.

Although this is a collection of short stories, the characters in this novel are interwoven. They will appear in each other's lives. They are teenagers in the barrio; however, teenagers anywhere can relate to being stuck between being a child and being an adult. This is the world of being a teen.

Character Map

Since the characters are interwoven in many of the stories, make a character map as your own on-going product. This map should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Character's name
- Story in which they appear
- Unique quality or characteristic
- Issue in the novel
- Issue resolution (how does the character take care of their issues?)

Social Studies Connection

Many of the stories are set in Puerto Rico. You can use this as an opportunity to study Puerto Rico, its culture and geography. Most of the families involved in the novel are Puerto Rican Immigrants to the United States. A timely activity is to compare and contrast 3-4 countries' immigration policies.

The rest of the novel is set in New Jersey. You can map the locations in the novel and study the United States Geography and Culture, focusing on the north east.

Final Writing Product

The Final Writing Project for *An Island Like You* by Judith Ortiz Cofer will be a writing portfolio and a response to literature essay. Your finished portfolio, in either a folder or binder, should include:

- Table of contents
- An opening letter or essay
- A collection of writing samples
- The final response to literature (attached)

- A cover sheet
- Reflective sheets or checklists

Key Passage, p. 164

“My mother came up and in her beautiful high voice began singing “*Las Mananitas*”. Some of use joined in, others didn’t, but no one spoke and no one left. I was glad that my mother held my hand because I had begun to feel that I had been in the spotlight too long, that I was beginning to fade. Through her tight grip I felt the energy and courage it takes to sing in front of people. Each time you do it, you risk public failure. But when it, works, your hold people’s attention, and for a few moments you may change their lives” (p. 164).

Doris has stood up and is not invisible. She is not only standing up for herself but for Rick who lived his life invisible in the barrio. She risked being mocked by the neighbors but she was able to change the life of her mentor Rick. Throughout the novel the author has highlighted individual stories. Why do you think she used Rick’s party as the closing story? What impact do you think she intended to have? What do you think the clowns and the balloons symbolized?

Write a response to literature explain the affect she intended to have, on her neighbors and on herself. Support your ideas and viewpoints with references to the text and to other works.

Add this final writing product to your writing portfolio.

Community Connection

The Community Connection for *An Island Like You* is a neighborhood/community assessment. You will assess your community (positives and negatives). You will create a community action plan to meet the needs of your community.

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

An Island Like You, Week 1



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

What is an island?

What is Alternative Healing?

What is a Quinceañera?

How is the Puerto Rican Culture and history similar to yours? How is it different?

What does it mean to be true to yourself?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

insisted (1)	daze (3)	coincidence (3)	commentary (5)	barrio (7)
pollution (12)	sacrifice (10)	trances (10)	summoned (10)	distracted (15)
elegant (18)	fiend (19)	outrageous (20)	bodice (21)	influence (22)
opinion (27)	asylum (27)	ribbing (28)	lair (30)	obsessive (33)
relax (34)	sensation (35)	saintly (35)	conscripting (36)	conversing (36)

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 1-40

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Character Web

Many of the characters are interwoven in the stories. Make a character map/web.

This map should include but is not limited to the following:

- Character's name;
- Story in which they appear
- Unique quality or characteristic
- Issue in the novel
- Issue resolution (how does the character take care of their issues?)

You can place a likeness of each character on the wall or chart with their description. Each time there is a connection, draw a line linking the two or use string to create a web.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an OMP for Rita. What do you think she is thinking and feeling since she has been sent to stay with her grandparents? Do you think she has any responsibility for being there? Add 5-7 thoughts to your OMP. Create an OMP for Arturo as well. He is running away and ends up at St. Joseph. You will add to these as you read.

Materials:

- Large piece of stiff paper for each character, like 11x17 oak tag
- Paper for bubbles with scissors and glue sticks
- Markers, crayons, pens, pencils, or paint
- Construction or tissue paper, scissors and glue sticks if desired

Step One: Create a large head shot of the character

1. Imagine what you think the character looks like from the descriptions in the text as well as your imagination. You can make a list of these details to help you draw the character, if you wish.
2. Decide how much of the character you wish to show: just the head and face? from the shoulders up? from the waist up? the whole person? You might want to include at least the shoulders to include some clothing details. You might want to show the size differences between characters.
3. Draw the characters head shot including the face on the large piece of paper. You could also cut the paper to form the head.
4. Illustrate your portrait with colors, construction paper or whatever will make the character colorful.

Step Two: Place cartoon bubbles of character thoughts around the portrait

1. Cut cartoon bubbles out.
2. Write things the character thinks, or says to him, on each bubble.
3. Put the bubbles up around the portrait.

Step Three: Add bubbles as you learn new things about the character

1. Read the story further and identify new things you have learned about the character, or ways the character has changed.
2. Follow step 2 to create and place additional bubbles.

Variations of this Open Mind Portrait:

1. You can use this process for any character in the story
2. You can use bubbles for what the character says, says to him or her, or does. You could make each of these different colors if you wish.
3. You could add bubbles for what the character learns, or ways the character changes, and use different colors for each.
4. You could use different colors for the beginning, middle and end of the story. Remember in the beginning you are introduced to the setting, the characters and the problems they have. In the middle you learn about the roadblocks to the characters solving their problems, and conflicts occur. In the end of the story those conflicts reach a peak and then resolve with a resolution of the character's problems.
5. You could use different colors for the phases you see in a story or the development of a particular character.
6. Instead of using bubbles you could write the bubble contents on the back of the portrait. You could use any of the variations above with color or print, or create columns or boxes for different categories or phases.
7. You could literally open the head like a hinge and list the contents [as though they were escaping from the space] using any of these variations.
8. You could make an Open Mind Portrait of yourself using any of the above variations.

Variations for Writing:

1. You could use the OMP to help write a character sketch, or to help decide what a character might do in a story.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Sketch

Using any medium of your choosing sketch a picture of Ramon, describe why he is so unique.

Postcard

Pretend you are Rita. Write a postcard to your friends back home. Describe to them what your life is like living with your grandparents. On the opposite side, draw a picture depicting your new life. Do not forget a stamp and proper address.

Beginning-Middle-End Chart

Using Rita as your character, fill in the Beginning column of a Beginning, Middle, End chart. Note the changes Rita has made from the beginning to end of this story. By the end of this week, you will have filled out the entire chart. (See page 12)

Sketch

Using the descriptions on page 12; sketch the house or Rita's description of the ocean. Use any medium of your choosing.

Postcard

Pretend you are Rita. Write a postcard to your friends describing your day on the beach. Make sure you properly address the card to them. On the opposite side, draw a picture that reflects this event.

Quinceañera Invitation

Pretend you are Rita and having your Quinceañera. Create an invitation for your party. Include the following information:

- Purpose of the party;
- Who it is honoring;
- When and where it will be held;
- Information for an RSVP;
- Any other pertinent information;
- Decorate your invitation to represent who you are (Appropriately)

Sketch

Using the details that describe Arturo on page 27-28, sketch Arturo using the medium of your choice.

Suitcase Bookmark

If you had to move and do it more than once what would you pack in your suitcase? How do you organize what is really important and what is not as important? Does anything you pack surprise you? Why or Why not? Create a bookmark or a suitcase that you list what you would take with you.

Walk a Mile in Another Person's Shoes

Think about what the phrase "To walk a mile in another person's shoes" means. Write a response to the following questions:

- What does it mean to walk in someone else's shoes?
- What can you learn by putting yourself in someone else's shoes?
- If we knew what it felt like to be others do you think that people would be a little nicer to each other?

Discussion

Key Questions, p. 1-8

1. In the beginning of the chapter Rita mentions visiting her grandparents. How often did she see them?
2. Under the circumstances of her visit, do you think there is anything she or her grandparents can do to make her trip positive?
3. Have you ever been sent to your grandparents as a form of punishment?
4. What do Rita's grandparents think is wrong with her? What do you think is really the problem?
5. Does Rita accept any responsibility for her punishment? Do you think she would change her perspective if she did?
6. Does ancestry (where your family is from) matter when it comes to dating and marriage? Is it OK to sneak out or around for your girlfriend or boyfriend? Why? What does it say about your relationship if you feel you have to do that?
7. Rita and her grandparents have many generational differences. How do you live in peace and respect from one generation to the next? Why do you think that things are that different between generations? Explain your answer.

Key Questions, p. 8-18

1. What are some of the generational differences between Rita and her grandparents? Rita learns that her grandmother wanted to be a dancer. Do you think that changes the way Rita now thinks about her grandmother? How?
2. Do you think Rita's grandmother has regret that she didn't dance? Why is dancing important to her? Is there anything you ever wanted to do and didn't, that you are regretful of? Explain? Do you think it's ever too late to pursue a dream or goal?
3. What do you think is wrong with Angela? What clues in the reading help you determine that outcome?
4. Rita is able to discover the beach as Mother Nature intended it—with shells, dolphins dancing in the water, and sheer beauty. She doesn't understand why Angela could be unhappy when she is surrounded by such beauty. What is the most beautiful thing in nature you have ever seen? Why did it make such an impact on you?
5. Part of grandfather's suggestion for the mother and Rita is that they get rid of the evil in the house together. Why is it important to support one another when you have to stand up for yourself? Do you think that healing can occur if they do not help each other? Why or why not?

Key Questions, p. 18-26

1. Why does Rita's grandmother insist that Angela eat? Why do some people get offended if you do not eat what they serve or do not eat more when offered?

2. Why did Angela stop eating? Was she possessed?
3. Angela and Rita have both been affected by bad influences. What do you consider bad influences? What do you do to combat them?
4. Each culture seems to have various different life celebrations and rituals. What does your culture celebrate that is different from another culture? Do you think there are huge differences in what we celebrate or are the differences in how we celebrate? What is the difference between the two?
5. Do you consider Rita's boyfriend, Jonny, a bad influence? What about her best friend Meli? What kind of person is she? Can she be her own bad influence?
6. What does Rita learn through this experience?
7. How does Rita change from the beginning to the end of this story?
8. Do you think Rita's grandmother knew she was not sick?
9. Do you think that Rita and her mother will have a better understanding of one another after this experience? Will the understanding be positive or negative?

Key Questions, p. 27-34

1. Why do you think Johan took Arturo into the church? Johan asks Arturo if he is in pain. What kind of pain do you think he is referring too?
2. What character traits do you think that Johan possesses?
3. Why does Arturo really run away?
4. When you live in a small community does that make it harder to be different?
5. What does the Flea represent the poem he read?
6. Arturo's teacher asks him to pick a poem he relates to. What do you relate to?
7. Arturo's peers start picking on him for reading the *Flea*; he says he didn't know how to fight it. So he dyed his hair purple, page 32. What do you think he should do to fight the pressures his peers are putting on him? Have you ever been a bully or been bullied? What did you do?

Key Questions, p. 34-40

1. Why do you think Arturo felt safe at the church? Do you think that Johan helped make him feel comfortable? If so, what did Johan do to make Arturo feel comfortable?
2. Johan cleans the church at night because he likes to be alone. Why is it important to the time to be able to be alone? Is being alone and lonely the same thing?
3. Johan explains how he can always find peace. To be without a restless heart is to have a joyful life. Do you agree? Where do you go and what do you do to find peace?
4. Arturo realizes that Johan's story is amazing and filled with tragedy, yet he still moves forward and has an amazing attitude. This made him think about his troubles and realize that he could handle his situation. Why is it important to keep your troubles in perspective (or walk a mile in someone else's shoes)? What does that help you do?

5. Integrity, honesty, genuine. These are all admirable traits to possess. What does the phrase, “be true to yourself”, mean to you? How are you true to yourself?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Passage, p. 3

“Great. My mother hadn’t told me that her father had gone senile. But I *had* been dreaming about Johnny Ruiz one of the reasons I had been sent away for the summer. Just a coincidence, I decided. But, what about privacy? Had I or had I not closed the window to my room?” (p. 3).

Writing Prompt

Rita has just gotten to her grandparents house and is having a difficult time adjusting. Her grandfather is able to see through her and tell her about her boyfriend. Have your parents or grandparents ever known what you were thinking? How did you feel about it? How did you react? How do you think they knew?

Write a three paragraph narrative essay describing your situation. In the first paragraph, describe in detail the situation or event. In the second paragraph, state how you think your family knew what you were thinking, how that made you feel and how you did react. In the third paragraph, discuss the relevant importance of the situation. Did it impact you in a way that positively or negatively impacted your life?

Key Passage, p. 16

“...I actually found some shells. This was new to me, since the public beach my cousins and I went to was swept clean of trash and everything else, every morning. Sand was all that was left until it was covered by empty cans, bags, disposable diapers, and all the other things people bring for a day at the beach and leave behind as a little gift to Mother Nature. But this was different. How could that girl in the pink house be so unhappy when she could wake up to this every morning?” (p. 16).

Writing Prompt

Rita is starting to gain an appreciation for the beauty that surrounds her. The description the author uses to describe what she sees at home and what she is experiencing now is very vivid. Why do you think the author compares the beaches with such detail? Do you think it has any reflection on Rita’s life?

Using the description of the beach where she is at, compared to what she knows from being at home, write a two-paragraph response to literature. In the first paragraph, describe the important ideas you feel that the author is trying to convey with her detailed accounts of the beach.

If you lived in a beautiful location, do you think you would you be happy all the time? Does the location of your home affect happiness or sadness? Can you

be happy living anywhere, as long as you make it your home? The location perspective will be the basis for your second paragraph.

Key Passage, p. 25

“...Our parents had really come up with some awful punishments for Meli and me. I’d had one of the best summers of my life with Angela, and I was even really getting to know my grandparents—the ghost-busting magnificent duo...” (p. 25).

Writing Prompt

“When life gives you lemons; make lemonade.” Rita was sent to her grandparents as a punishment. Although, she tried to be miserable she ended up having a great time. She began to understand and like her grandparents, she met a great friend, and she learned a life lesson about negative peers. Have you ever been in a bad situation that because of your attitude turned out to be really fun?

Write a two-paragraph essay describing a time in your life where you were able to take something that was completely negative and change the outcome to make it completely positive. Describe who was involved and what the situation was. In the second paragraph, explain in detail what you learned from this situation and how it was significant to your life.

Be sure to include how your attitude helped you turn your situation around. Can the opposite occur? Can you be in a great situation but because of your bad mood have a negative experience?

Key Passage, p. 28

“...He acts like the keeper of the Olympic torch or something. But I understand what he means. It would be wrong to blow out a candle someone lit for a special reason—like stealing a wish” (p. 28).

Writing Prompt

Johan takes pride in caring for the church. In some ways his is protecting it. He makes sure that people’s candles stay lit and the intentions they represent are protected.

Write a two paragraph narrative essay. In the first paragraph, explain why respecting “wishes” of others is so important. In the second paragraph explain why it is important for Johan to leave the candles alone. Support your ideas with information that connects all related claims.

Key Passage, p. 34

“But what happened was that when I sat back down, I started to relax in that church like I hadn’t anywhere since I was a little kid. I breathed better. The way the air smelled like incense and candles cleared my head, and the old wood and leather all around made me feel kind of safe, like in a library” (p. 34).

Writing Prompt

Arturo describes the safe feeling he got while visiting the church. He describes the setting and the smells he associates with it. Do your senses (touch, sight, hearing, taste, and smell) play an important role in how you feel?

Write a two paragraph narrative essay where you describe something you see, smell, hear, or touch that makes you feel safe. What is it? Is it a place? Does it involve someone who is close to you? What do you associate that item or feeling with? Use as many concrete details as you can to describe your feelings.

2g6 Beginning-Middle-End Chart

Beginning	Middle	End

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

An Island Like You, Week 2



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

What does it mean to be aerodynamic?

What is beauty? What do you consider is beautiful? Why?

How do you cope with grief?

What is a nursing home?

What is Carnegie Hall?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

stampedes (41)	herd(42)	aerodynamic (46)	conduct (46)	disdain (48)
linoleum (50)	dramatically (52)	potential (51)	invisible (52)	glamorous (52)
botched (56)	mascot (57)	vulgar (57)	emerged (58)	mocking (59)
industrial (66)	depressed (67)	orderlies (67)	scholar (70)	wicked (71)
afford (72)	monstrous (73)	confusion (73)	sentimental (79)	crumpled (79)

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 41-81

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Character Web

Many of the characters are interwoven in the stories we suggest making a character map/web. This map should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Character's name
- Story in which they appear
- Unique quality or characteristic
- Issue in the novel
- Issue resolution (how does the character take care of their issues?)

You can place a likeness of each character on the wall or chart with their description. Each time there is a connection, draw a line linking the two or use string to create a web.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an OMP for Sandra. What do you think she is thinking and feeling as she is teased in class, as she runs, and as a friend to Anita? Add 5-7 thoughts to your OMP. You will add to this as you read.

Create an OMP for Luis as well. What do you think he is thinking and feeling as he works off his sentence, he understands his dad's need to keep busy, and grieves for his mother? Add 5-7 thoughts to your OMP.

Create an OMP for either Doris or Yolanda too. What do you think they are thinking and feeling as they go on their adventures? Add 5-7 thoughts to your OMP.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Character Profile Chart

Create a CPC for Sandra. Add eight character traits you feel she has. Use examples from the reading to support your answer (see p. 25-26).

The Late Bloomer

Read *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus.

- What made Leo a Late Bloomer?

- What was done to help Leo?
- Why is there such a need by society for everyone to do the same things at the same time?
- What is an individual? What makes you unique?

Create flowers in the medium of your choosing. On each flower blossom, write things that make you special, unique, and an individual.

Advertisement

Create an advertisement for Modesta's beauty school. What attributes do you think she would teach if she had the opportunity? Create a flyer for her school. Include the following information:

- Name of school;
- Hours, location, and contact information;
- Mission and goals of the school;
- Attributes focused upon to create a beautiful you.

Sketch

Sketch a picture of Luis using the medium of your choice while he is standing on the hubcaps in the junkyard (see p. 55 for description).

Character Interaction Chart

Create a Character Interaction Chart using Luis, Naomi, and Jorge. Use examples from the books to explain the interaction between each character (see page 27).

Dream Property

Not everyone can inherit a junkyard. Create a "dream property" you would like.

- Where would your dream property be;
- What features would it have;
- Illustrate your property with as much detail as possible.

You can also do this activity by creating a dream property collage.

Found Poem

Write a found poem using words from this chapter. Using the topic "life" "education" or "reading", find 10-15 words in that chapter that relate to their chosen topic. You can use the words in any order to create their poem. You can also complete an acrostic poem using the same topic words.

Venn Diagram

Use a Venn Diagram to compare Yolanda to Doris. List the things that are different about them and in the center list the things they have in common. You can use the diagram to write a character comparison essay (see page 28).

Discussion

Key Questions, p. 41-49

1. Why does Sandra feel so different? What makes her feel invisible? Is it the fault of others or does she have some responsibility for feeling invisible?
2. Sandra talks about her plans on page 43. She is clear that she wants to be independent, why is it important to have a plan for your life? What are your short-term and long-term plans?
3. Why is Sandra so self-conscious about how she looks?
4. Sandra is an awesome athlete and running makes her feel free. She is able to escape and just be herself. What do you do to feel “free” or to get away from people and things that bother you?
5. Do you think Paco likes her? Why or why not?
6. Do you think Paco would like her if she wore a lot of make-up and tight clothing?

Key Questions, p. 49-54

1. Sandra notes that she doesn’t think her aunt knows how to be happy without a man in her life, p. 49. Why is it important to know how to be happy on your own?
2. What is the definition of dignity? Based on what you read about Modesta, do you think she has dignity? Describe the personality traits of someone you know that has dignity.
3. How does Sandra feel when she sees how much work her aunt goes through to look good?
4. In today’s society, do we place more value on the beauty of a person, rather than personality or intelligence? Explain your answer in detail.
5. How does Sandra make contact with Paco?
6. What do the two of them share in common?

Key Questions, p. 55-65

1. Why is Luis on top of the hubcaps? Why do you think that Luis mocks his father when he tells him that the yard will be his? Is it ever okay for a child to mock a parent?
2. Do you think that Luis is a troublemaker or extremely smart with misguided talents? What could he do to use his talents in other ways?
3. Luis’s father is self-taught and extremely proud of his appearance and all he has learned and earned. Does Luis appreciate his father for those qualities? Why or why not?
4. Why is his father concerned about him?
5. What does Luis learn about his father’s desire to keep busy? What do you do to help yourself through difficult situations? Do you try to get through it on your own or do you go to someone you trust to help you?
6. Who is Naomi?
7. What is different about Naomi?
8. Why does Luis spend all night trying to find her hubcap? How does this help him through the grieving process?

Key Questions, p. 66-71

1. Why does Arturo not want to see his grandfather?
2. Arturo's grandfather valued reading. How does reading help you? Do you believe that you will gain more knowledge by being an avid reader?
3. Does his grandfather know how his grandson feels?
4. What does grandfather prove to his grandson?
5. What does the older lady in pink jogging suit represent?
6. What does Arturo think of his grandpa?
7. How does this change by the end of the story?
8. Arturo's grandfather was a teacher. The circumstances of the war prohibited him from getting a college degree. Do you have to have a degree to be smart? How does being a college graduate help you?
9. What does Arturo learn about his grandpa and life?

Key Questions, p. 72-81

1. Why does Doris choose to follow Yolanda? What do you think she is missing from her life that she won't stand up for herself?
2. Does Doris know they could get into trouble? Why is she willing to risk for Yolanda? Do you think she is treated well by Yolanda? Are they really friends? Explain.
3. Doris refers to herself as "Just a nothing." Why? Why does Doris feel invisible? What does it mean to feel invisible?
4. What does Yolanda do with the black beaded evening bag? How does Doris react?
5. What does Doris learn from this experience?
6. Why does Doris's mom sing to her like she was at Carnegie Hall? What is she trying to tell her daughter?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Passage, p. 43

"I plan on staying in school because if I don't I'll end up depending on someone else to take care of me, like a man. That seems to be all the women can talk about around the barrio—money and men, men and money. Maybe if I go to college and get a good job, I won't have to worry that I'll have to go on welfare if my husband leaves me" (p. 43).

Writing Prompt

Sandra has goals. She wants to be independent and able to care for herself. In order to do this she has a plan with dreams and goals that she wants to accomplish. What are your goals? What do you want for yourself in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, life?

Write 2-3 paragraphs explaining your goals and your plan. Be as clear and concise as possible. Explain your goals and your plan with as much detail and reasoning as possible. Include the idea of making commitments to yourself in

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order to move forward with your plan and include education, and/or specialized training that may be required to attain success. Also, explain why having a plan makes a dream seem attainable and realistic and not just a fantasy that may never happen.

Key Passage, p. 53

"I may have bugs bunny teeth, but they are mine, and if I put on a few pounds, they might even look right on my face, which is, at least, my real face, and not painted on. When I see Paco by himself next time I am going to talk to him" (p. 53).

Writing Prompt

Sandra realizes that although she may not be popular and great looking by her friends' standards, she is beautiful because everything on her is real. She becomes confident knowing this. Do you think it is important to be yourself and unique or to follow others?

Write a narrative letter requesting your reader to value the person he or she is. Emphasize that he or she should not change, compete with peers or pretend to be someone else just to impress others. Try to be realistic. Most of us know someone who is influenced by what others think and tend to think that it is better to follow and be accepted than to venture out of the norm and possibly be rejected or ridiculed. Your standard letter format should be addressed to a friend outside of school or a family member. Be firm, but also loving and supportive.

Key Passage, p. 55

"Luis Cintron sits on top of a six-foot pile of hubcaps and watches his father walk away into the steel jungle of his car junkyard. Released into his old man's custody after six months in juvenile hall—for breaking and entering—and he didn't even take anything. He did it on a dare. But the old lady with the million cats was a light sleeper and a good with her aluminum cane. He has a scar on his head to prove it" (p. 55).

Writing Prompt

Luis was released to his father after breaking into an elderly woman's home. He had organized a group of so-called friends that would dare one another to do illegal and horrible things.

Pretend you are Luis Cintron and you are now trying to get off probation. Write a standard business letter to the woman whose house you broke into. Explain to her that you are sorry and tell her what you plan to do in the future that is constructive, not destructive. Whether or not you are offering a sincere apology is not the issue. Writing a letter to the woman is the first step to take when holding yourself accountable for your actions. This shows responsibility and a promise to do the right thing. Use standard business format.

Key Passage, p. 68

"*Asi es la vida,* 'That's the way life is. It sometimes makes me mad that the adults I know just accept whatever crap is thrown at them because 'that's the way things are.' Not for me. I go after what I want" (p. 68).

Writing Prompt

Arturo has gotten to know his grandfather in a new way. However, he is frustrated at his grandfather's philosophy, "Asi es la vida", "That's the way life is." Do you think that life just happens or do you think that you are in control of your own destiny?

Write two narrative paragraphs defending your position. Structure your argument in a logical fashion. Think about the choices you make. Do you choose which course of action you'll take all the time? Or, do you let life just happen? Do some people always seem to have to work a little harder than others in order to achieve what they want and it still does not work out for them? What kind of long-term affects do you think it might have on them?

Key Passage, p. 72

"Mira, Mira, my friend Yolanda yells out. She's always telling me to look at something. And I always do. I look, she does. That's the way it has always been. Yolanda just turned sixteen and I am six months younger. I was born to follow the leader, that's what my mother says when she sees us together, and it's true" (p. 72).

Writing Prompt

Doris is convinced she should follow Yolanda and do whatever she wants her to. Although, their journeys are fun and fairly harmless at first they continue to escalate until Yolanda is stealing. For the first time Doris stands up for herself.

What does the phrase, "I was born to follow the leader" mean? **Write a 3-paragraph response. In the first paragraph, explain what the above phrase symbolizes or means. In the second paragraph, use information from today's reading and from previous experiences to relate to what Doris experienced with Yolanda. In the third paragraph, write whether you see yourself as a follower or a leader and if you are content with the role you have selected for yourself. Be thorough in your explanations.**

4g6 Character Profile Chart

The diagram is a central vertical rectangle labeled "Character". It is connected by diagonal lines to four rectangular boxes: "Trait 1" (top-left), "Trait 2" (top-right), "Trait 3" (bottom-left), and "Trait 4" (bottom-right). Each trait box is further connected by diagonal lines to two smaller rectangular boxes, labeled "example 1" and "example 2", arranged vertically. The entire structure is symmetrical around the central "Character" box.

example 1

Trait 1

Trait 2

example 1

example 2

Character

example 2

example 1

Trait 3

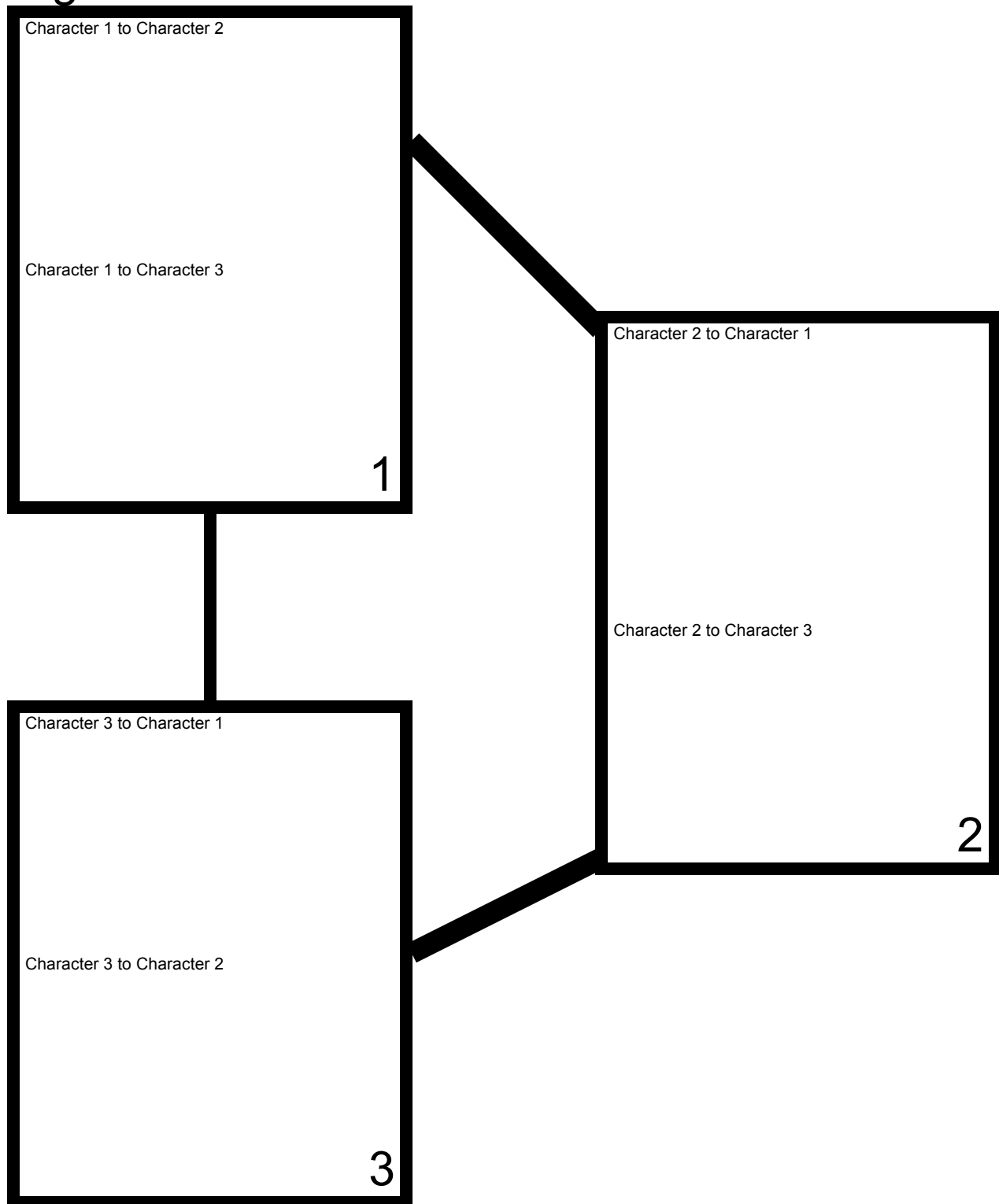
Trait 4

example 1

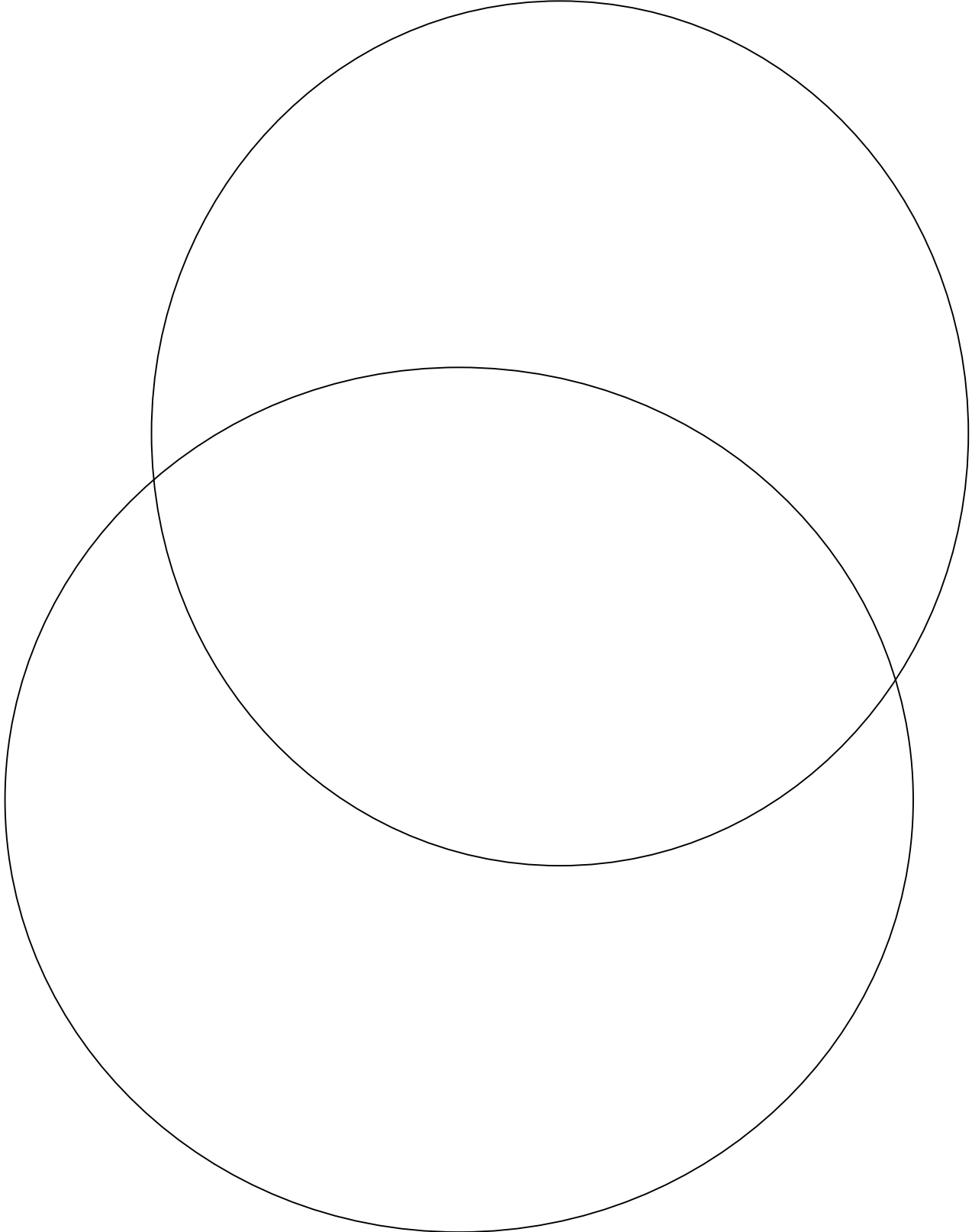
example 2

example 2

5g6 Character Interaction Chart



6g6 Venn Diagram Chart



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

An Island Like You, Week 3



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

Have you ever ignored your parents' or another person's warning?

What is *Man of La Mancha*?

What is a séance?

What is zero?

What are scholarship programs?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

impression (83)	lure (83)	disconnected (85)	imaginary (88)	sprawled (89)
squirm (92)	addicted (92)	majesty (93)	maneuvering (93)	widow (93)
radiantly (104)	ridiculous (96)	stifle (97)	sophisticated (98)	primping (100)
trembling (107)	ruined (108)	obligation (109)	wandered (111)	apologize (111)
scholarship (112)	inventory (113)	obnoxious (113)	distracted (113)	humble (114)

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 82-121

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

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- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Character Web

Many of the characters are interwoven in the stories we suggest making a character map/web. This map should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Character's name
- Story in which they appear
- Unique quality or characteristic
- Issue in the novel
- Issue resolution (how does the character take care of their issues?)

You can place a likeness of each character on the wall or chart with their description. Each time there is a connection, draw a line linking the two or use string to create a web.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an OMP for Kenny. What do you think he is thinking and feeling? Add 5-7 new thoughts to your OMP.

Create an OMP for Yolanda. What do you think she is thinking and feeling since she has lost her father, been arrested, and meets her mother's new boyfriend? What do you think she is thinking and feeling not that her mother is dating and happy? Add 5-7 new thoughts to your OMP.

Create an OMP for Connie too. What do you think she is thinking and feeling about her grandmother and her visit? Why does she resent that grandmother is even there? Add 5-7 new thoughts to you OMP.

Create an OMP for Teresa. What do you think she is thinking and feeling as she gets her new job and is assigned to work with Valentin? Add 5-7 new thoughts to your OMP.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Collage

Think of all of the advice your parents or mentors give you. Create a collage representing that advice.

Character Interaction Chart

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Fill out a character interaction chart for Kenny, his mom and then his family (either mom or sisters) after he comes home from Harry's party (see page 37).

Sketch

Based on Yolanda's description of Don Jose on p. 95-96, sketch your version of him using the medium of your choosing.

Poster

Yolanda's father has died, and she is trying hard not to let his memory go. Create a poster that has things that represent good memories to you. It can be a list, collage, poems, etc. Make sure all items are appropriate.

Cartoon

Create a cartoon summary of one chapter from this week's reading. You should have 5-8 comic strip panels describing the chapter. Use thought bubbles to relay the information from the chapter.

Poster

Create a poster/advertisement to help sell Valentin's artwork. Include the following on your poster:

- Illustration
- Cost
- Purpose for selling the animals
- Description of the animals. Be as detailed as possible
- Contact information.

Discussion

Key Questions, p. 82-91

1. Why did his Kenny's mom furious about Kenny associating with Harry?
2. Why did Kenny choose to go to the party anyway?
3. Why do we sometimes choose not to listen to our parents?
4. When Kenny was at the party, he felt out of place. But, that feeling changed. Why? What happened to him?
5. What does Kenny really see while he is on the streets?
6. What does the white mirror represent? What does Kenny do with it?
7. How does Kenny change after this event?

Key Questions, p. 92-96

1. Why does Yolanda sit outside alone on the front stoop?
2. She meets Kenny Motoa on the street. What does she think happened to him? Are Yolanda's feelings different from your impression based on yesterday's reading?
3. Does Yolanda accept responsibility for the trouble she got into with the police?

4. How does Yolanda's mother deal with the loss of her father? How does Yolanda deal with it? Is either one a better way to cope than the other? Explain?
5. Yolanda and her mother have a good relationship. Do you think the majority of their differences are generational or cultural or both? Explain.
6. When Yolanda meets Don Jose is she compassionate towards him? Does she like him? What about Yolanda's attitude? Could she have earnestly tried to think and act differently towards him?

Key Questions, p. 96-106

1. Why was Yolanda jealous of her mother's boyfriend?
2. She feels that her mother could do better. Does it matter that she could do better if she is happy? Does being happy mean that she has achieved the best she can, even though Yolanda does not think so?
3. What was Yolanda trying to do in order to get her mother's undivided attention?
4. Mami feels that it is time for them to start living a normal life again. Does this mean that they have to forget her father? Can you live and move forward with memories?
5. Was this fair of Yolanda to compete with this man?
6. What would you do if your parent started dating someone else after the death of his or her spouse?
7. Why does Yolanda worry about her mother?

Key Questions, p. 107-111

1. Why is Connie so resentful of her abuela? Do you think her visit is going to negatively impact her that much?
2. Why doesn't Connie help her abuela? What is she really afraid of? Do you think that she would be teased or respected for helping her grandmother?
3. Why does the woman next to Connie react the way she does when Connie just sits there watching her abuela struggle? If you were that woman/person what would you have done?
4. What would you do if your grandparent was lost or needed our help?
5. Does a person have to earn worth? If so, where does it come from? Is it the same for everyone? What is your worth?

Key Questions, p. 112-121

1. Why did Teresa want to work at the pool when she could not swim?
2. The city is participating in a program to allow individuals with disabilities an opportunity to work. Do you think this is a worthy program? What are the pro's and con's of this type of program?
3. What is Teresa's opinion about working with people who have disabilities? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever done something out of character to impress another person? How did it work out?

5. What kind of person was Bob Dylan Kalinowski?
6. What does Mrs. O'Brien ask Teresa to do while she's working the snack bar?
7. Based on what you know so far about Bob Dylan, should Bob be able to keep his job?
8. On page 118, Teresa describes Valentin, "His face shows every emotion he feels." Do you think this is a good quality? Do you think that people would get along better if our faces showed our true emotions? Why? Why do you think people hide their emotions?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Passage, p. 91

"He shuts his eyes tight against the intense light ricocheting off the white mirror like a laser beam aimed straight at him. It feels like it's burning a hole through his skull—and his mother's voice keeps calling him back, worming its way into his head, tracking him down to the dark corner where he hides" (p. 91).

Writing Prompt

The author is not very clear about what has happened to Kenny. She allows you to come to your own conclusion.

In two paragraphs, respond to the following questions: What is really going on? Will Kenny live through it? Was his mother right? Do you think this is an effective writing style for this particular story?

Explain if you think this stylistic format is effective. Why or why not? Do you think you would have the same response in the story if you knew exactly what happened? What was the transformation Kenny went through?

Key Passage, p. 95

"To some people that is not an insult, Yolanda,' she says, 'When I was a little girl on the island, the jibaros were the backbone of our country—the good, simple people who farmed the land'" (p. 95).

Writing Prompt

Yolanda is not overly enthusiastic about Don Jose or her mother dating. She sees him as a threat and makes fun of who he is based on his clothes. Has he done anything wrong?

Write a two-paragraph essay where you either defend Don Jose and his pursuit of Mami, or object to it. Be clear and concise. Have a clear and specific thesis statement that defines your position. Give details from the novel to support your thesis.

Key Passage, p. 106

"...I get this feeling that she is trying to transfer something to me, something she's feeling—love, happiness, whatever it is, it feels good, so I just close my eyes to try

and enjoy it. But glued to the back of my eyelids is a picture of Papi, looking sharp in his white shirt and tie. Don't forget me, he whispers in my head. Don't forget" (p. 106).

Writing Prompts

Yolanda is struggling with the death of her father. Although, she knows they should move forward it is still hard. She finally accepts that her mother is happy—but concerned that with time she will forget her father. Is there a balance between moving forward and not forgetting the loss of someone you cared for?

Write 2 paragraphs explaining how you can move forward and still hold that person close to your heart. You can support your thesis with primary and secondary sources. Refer to the novel, your personal experiences and other information you may have read about living through the death of a loved one and the steps it takes to live your life again without this person, but never forgetting the loved one. An example of a secondary source would be the horrific devastation that occurred on September 11, 2001. Terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people. Many memorials, tributes, movies, etc., have been made to help us not only deal with this tragedy, but, most importantly, to never forget them.

Key Passage, p. 111

"Your grandmother says to tell you that of all the hurtful things you can do to a person, the worst is to make them feel as if they are worth nothing" (p. 111).

Writing Prompt

Connie is so concerned about her and what people will think about *her*, that she forgets to treat her grandmother well. In actuality people think more negatively about her because she watched her grandmother struggle. Do you think that grandmother is right that the worst thing you can do to another is to make them feel as if they are worth nothing?

Write a 3-paragraph essay explaining a person's value. Tell where you think worth comes from. This is your opinion, thus don't be concerned with what you think you should express. Write what is true for you. Explain if you think there is anything worse you could do than to cause a person to feel like nothing. Be clear and concise. Think about your life so far. Have you experienced this yourself? Have you witnessed this happen to someone in your family or with a friend? Anticipate and address any misunderstandings your reader may have.

Key Passage, p. 113

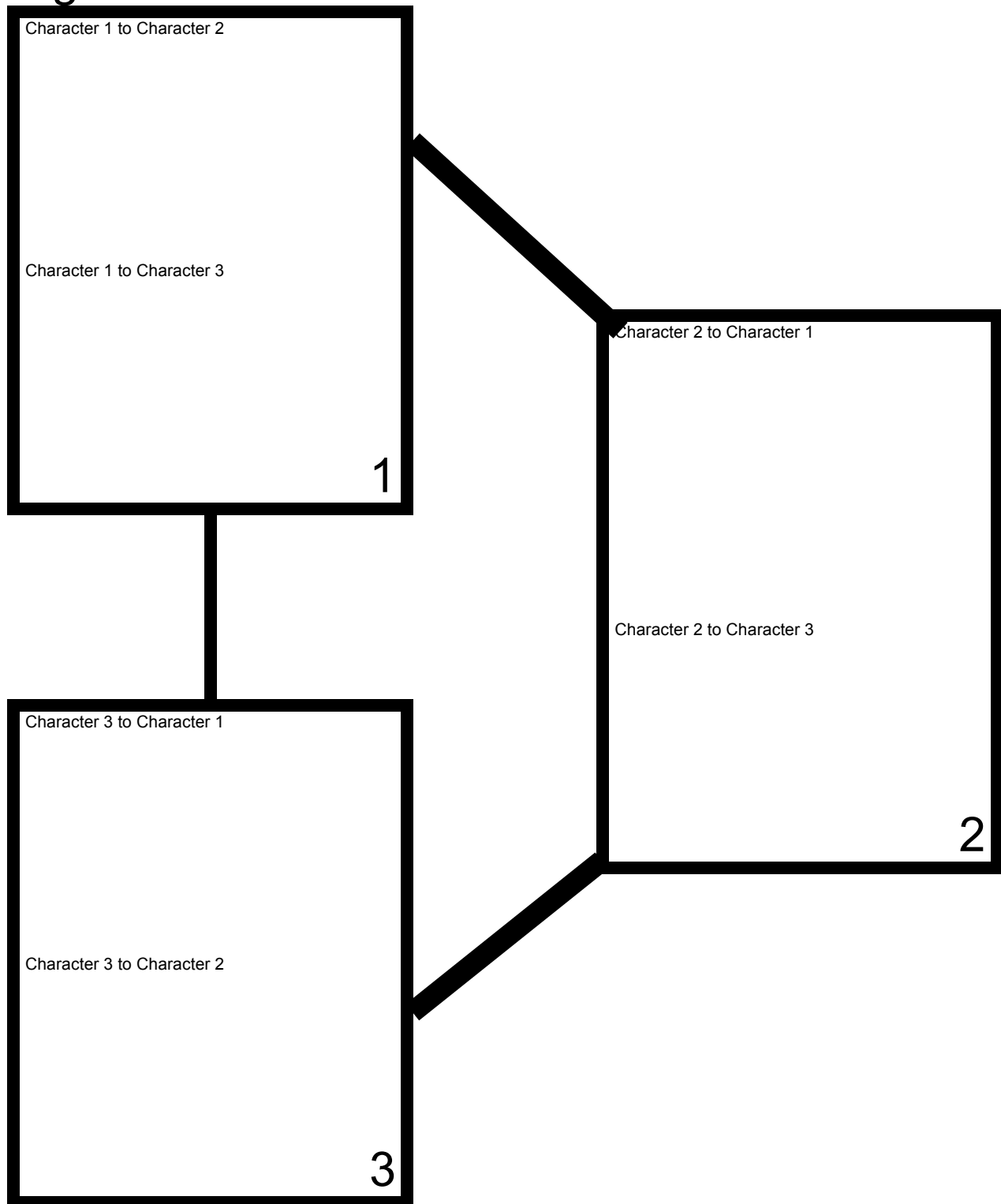
"'Yes, ma'am,' Even though I feel funny about being asked to spy on Bob Dylan...but if they gave him the job as a lifeguard, they ought to trust him to do it right..." (p. 113).

Writing Prompt

Teresa was hired to work in the snack shop. Bob Dylan was hired as a lifeguard. Mrs. O'Brien is asking Teresa to spy on Bob and tell her if he is messing around. Do you think that is Teresa's job? Do you think it is her responsibility to report it if he is not doing his job correctly?

Pretend you are Teresa and are not comfortable spying on a peer. **Write a business letter to Mrs. O' Brien. Let her know that you are not comfortable spying on your peer. Explain to her that you have no knowledge of his job or his duties. Ask her to find another alternative to supervise Bob Dylan. Maintain a serious and professional tone. Use appropriate vocabulary and tone to defend your position.**

5g6 Character Interaction Chart



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

An Island Like You, Week 4



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

Research and define each of the following background questions. They will be important pieces to the story. Answer each question in complete sentences.

What is the history of organized recreation? Why is recreation important?

What is the future? What does your future hold?

What is AIDS? How do you get AIDS?

What is *Cats*?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

startled (122)	grinning (123)	furious (124)	flirting (125)	ignore (127)
salute (131)	natives (131)	hypocrisy (132)	baritone (133)	pounce (134)
sponsor (144)	spied (145)	imitation (145)	screech (146)	persecuting (147)
audition (155)	ashamed (155)	talent (157)	matinee (157)	curious (160)

READ

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 122-165

RESPOND

Timeline List 15-20 of the most important events on your Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Character Web

Many of the characters are interwoven in the stories we suggest making a character map/web. This map should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Character's name
- Story in which they appear
- Unique quality or characteristic
- Issue in the novel
- Issue resolution (how does the character take care of their issues?)

You can place a likeness of each character on the wall or chart with their description. Each time there is a connection, draw a line linking the two or use string to create a web.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your OMP for Teresa. What do you think she is thinking and feeling now that she has gotten to know Valentin better? As she sees who Bob Dylan really is and as she has to save the life of a child? Add 5-7 new thoughts to your OMP.

Create an OMP for Anita. What do you think she is thinking and feeling as she runs away? What about when she realizes that moving in with Frank would have been a disaster? Add 5-7 new thoughts to your OMP.

Create an OMP for Doris. What do you think she is thinking and feeling as she gets to know Rick and Martini? Why do you think she understands Rick? What is Martini challenging her to do?

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Newspaper

Create a newspaper front page that highlights the details of this week's reading. Your paper should include:

- A title and date line;
- 2 news stories and one feature;
- Appropriate and catchy headlines;
- At least one illustration;
- You can also include: a comic strip, astrological forecast, advertisements, etc. be creative.

Plot Profile Chart

Fill out a plot profile chart. Choose 10 events that are important and high interest. Then rate those events on a scale of 1-10 to rank their intensity. You can use the chart to write a summary of a chapter from this week's reading (see p. 47).

Venn Diagram

Create a Venn Diagram for Anita and Frank. On one side, list things that Anita wants, compared to things that Frank wants (see p. 48).

Invitation

Create a party invitation. What are you celebrating? Where will it be? When?

Discussion

Key Questions, p. 122-130

1. What kind of understanding is Teresa getting from working with Valentin?
2. Teresa wonders if Valentin's life is hard since everything is a struggle. If you don't know any other way of living do you think he cares?
3. Why does Teresa believe that Maricela does not deserve to be a mother?
4. How do you feel about Maricela?
5. What would you do if you were in Teresa's predicament?
6. How did Teresa feel about Valentin in the end?
7. After the pool incident, how did Mrs. O'Brian react towards Valentin and Teresa? What did she call Valentin?
8. When the emergency was taking place what kind of skills and strength did Valentin display?

Key Questions, p. 131-143

1. Why does Anita want to run away? What do you think she is looking for? Do you think she will find it by living in another spot?
2. Does Anita understand what Frank's motives are?
3. How did Anita not know Frank was only looking for one thing? Is the ability to see an entire situation a sign of maturity?
4. Why does Frank's mother look down on the situation? Are there certain challenges that mixed race or mixed religion couples face? Do you think mixed race couples can have successful relationships? Why or why not?
5. Why would an older man like Frank pick up on young girls?
6. Did Frank expect her to move in with him?
7. Why did Anita change her mind?
8. What did Anita see in the deli when she came back from El Building?
9. What do you predict Anita will do next? If you were Anita's friend what advice would you give her?

Key Questions, p. 144-154

1. What do you think Rick wanted for the kids who would participate in the play?

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2. Why was it so important that Rick put on the play?
3. Why was Doris willing to try and gather everyone to help him?
4. If they were in a different town or another neighborhood do you think the reaction to Rick would be the same? What about now?
5. Do you think that people's perception of people with HIV and AIDS has changed?
6. Do you think the kids objected to Rick or were they indifferent to the play because that was their personality anyway?
7. How does Doris connect with Martini? Why does she value him? What do you think he can teach her?
8. Integrity means to behave in a way that is morally upright and honest. Do you consider Rick a person of integrity?

Key Questions, p. 155-165

1. Why was Doris willing to try and gather everyone to help him? Do you think the kids weren't interested or did they have other priorities?
2. What do you think Doris learned from Rick and Martini? Can you learn from everyone you meet if you give them an opportunity?
3. How did these stories connect to one another?
4. Do you live in a small community like this one? Is your community good or bad?
5. If you don't live in a small community, would you want to live in a small community like this one?
6. How many plays do you think these kids have gone to before seeing "Cats?" Do you think they have had many opportunities to experience things such as this outside of their community?
7. Why was the birthday party so important? What and who did the clown represent?
8. Why did they let off white balloons?
9. What was the feeling or mood when they released the balloons?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Passage, p. 125

"My mother uses Maricela as a warning to me of what I'll become if I don't get an education and stay away from boys. I sometimes remind my mother that if Maricela's parents had given her a good home life, maybe she would have turned out better. But now, seeing her standing there looking totally unconcerned about the danger her son could have faced in the last hour, makes me want to turn her in to family services. She doesn't deserve to have a cute kid like Pablito" (p. 125).

Writing Prompt

Maricela selfishly leaves her son in a dangerous situation. Teresa steps in to care for him. Why was Teresa so angry? Do you think that Maricela deserves to have a cute kid like Pablito?

Pretend you are Teresa. Write a letter to the Social Services Department based on the facts in today's reading. Give them an account of the things she has done that are neglectful in regard to her child. In your letter, tell them that you don't want Pablito taken away. Express that you wish to focus getting Maricela the help she needs in order to be the best meet the needs of her child. Offer suggestions to the department to help them support Maricela.

Think about Pablito and the awesome responsibility it is to care for a child. It is better to teach Maricela and to help her raise a good child than to not support her. Give as many solutions as possible that would help Maricela to be a better parent.

Key Passage, p. 142

"...with each step, El Building looms larger in front of her. She's always thought that the old gray tenement building with its iron fire escapes hanging from its sides like bars make it look like a prison or an insane asylum. But right now she just wants to let the place swallow her. She wants to be in its belly. Safe within the four walls of her room where she can sort out her thoughts and try to discover what she really wants" (p. 142).

Writing Prompt

Anita ran away from her life. What she realizes is that her life is not that bad. In addition, she doesn't know what she wants her future to be. She realizes that she has to figure out what she wants and it is best to do that in a safe environment. Pretend you are one of Anita's friends.

Write her a letter explaining that running away is not the solution when her life is not going the way she wants it to. Give her advice on better ways to solve her problems. Suggest that she get her life in order before she considers dating anyone. In addition, clearly state that happiness comes from within a person's mind. She can choose to live a positive life despite the attitudes and actions of others. Also, emphasize that having a man in her life is not the answer or solution to her problems. In addition, help her formulate a plan for her future.

As you write structure your arguments in a logical fashion.

Key Passage, p. 151

"The barrio doesn't forget and the barrio doesn't forgive."

'What do you have to be forgiven for Ricky? Being yourself?' Martini smiled at Rick.

'For being different,' Rick said, turning to me. 'You've heard my story, right, Doris?'" (p. 151).

Writing Prompt

Rick has returned to the barrio and he wants to establish a theatre group for the kids. Sadly, people's impression of him makes it impossible for his dream to come true. He realizes that being different will always haunt him. Doris understands his

predicament because she is different to. Is it wrong to be different or should differences be embraced and uniqueness celebrated? Read the poem “The Road Less Traveled” by Robert Frost attached.

In two paragraphs, write about a time that you chose to be different and unique or a time when you stood up to your peers and followed your goals and dreams instead of conforming to what others thought you should do. BE as descriptive as possible. Detail how people’s perceptions were possibly changed by your position. What did it feel like for you to stand up and be different? Why do you think that more people choose to follow the group instead of making their own choices?

Key Passage, p. 159

“It was one of the most awesome experiences of my life...I cried when the show ended. I thought I knew which cat Rick had played: it was the wise one, the one who says that there’s a better world beyond the dangerous alley and the grimy junkyard” (p. 159).

Writing Prompt

The kids loved the play. Doris thought she could determine which cat Rick had played. Why do you think she chose the wise cat? Do you think she could relate to that character? Or do you think Rick played that Cat to send a message?

Do you think that the author is trying to make a point by casting Rick as the wise cat? What message is she trying to convey to the reader when she writes, “there is a world beyond the dangerous alley and the grimy junkyard?”

In a 3 paragraph narrative essay, respond to the following topics: In the first paragraph, explain what the author means when she writes, “there is a world beyond the dangerous alley and the grimy junkyard?” and give your opinion on it. In the second paragraph, address the kind of world you think that Rick wanted the kids in the barrios to experience. In the third paragraph, express whether or not people are motivated to change their circumstances if they aren’t aware of their choices?

Key Passage, p. 164

“My mother came up and in her beautiful high voice began singing “*Las Mananitas*”. Some of use joined in, others didn’t, but no one spoke and no one left. I was glad that my mother held my hand because I had begun to feel that I had been in the spotlight too long, that I was beginning to fade. Through her tight grip I felt the energy and courage it takes to sing in front of people. Each time you do it, you risk public failure. But when it, works, you hold people’s attention, and for a few moments you may change their lives.”

Writing Prompt

Doris has stood up and is not invisible. She is not only standing up for herself but for Rick who lived his life invisible in the barrio. She risked being mocked by the neighbors but she was able to change the life of her mentor Rick. Throughout the novel the author has highlighted individual stories. Why do you think she used Rick’s party as

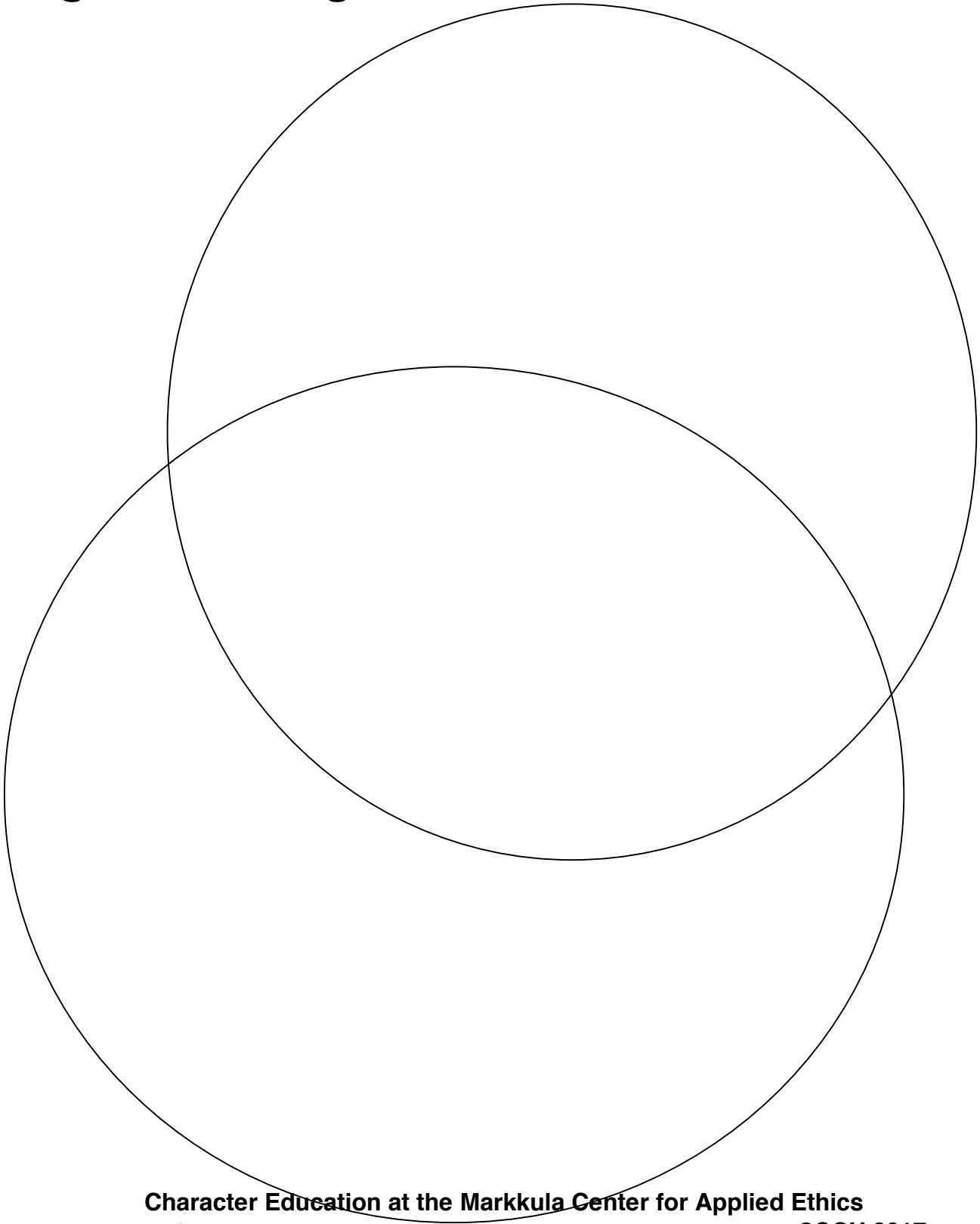
the closing story? What impact do you think she intended to have? What do you think the clowns and the balloons symbolized?

Write a final three-paragraph essay explaining the impact she intended to have on her neighbors and on herself. Support your ideas and viewpoints with references to the text and to other works, and from your own personal experiences. In your narrative essay include your answers to the following questions: Why do you think the author used Rick's party as the closing story? What do you think the clowns and the balloons symbolized?

3g6 Plot Profile Chart

10										
9										
8										
7										
6										
5										
4										
3										
2										
1										
Intensity	Description									
Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

6g6 Venn Diagram Chart



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

An Island Like You, Final Writing Product



The final Project for *An Island Like You* by Judith Ortiz Cofer is a writing portfolio and a response to literature essay. Your finished portfolio, in either a folder or binder, should include:

- Table of contents
- An opening letter or essay
- A collection of writing samples
- The final response to literature (attached)
- A cover sheet
- Reflective sheets or checklists

Key Passage, p. 164

“My mother came up and in her beautiful high voice began singing “*Las Mananitas*”. Some of use joined in, others didn’t, but no one spoke and no one left. I was glad that my mother held my hand because I had begun to feel that I had been in the spotlight too long, that I was beginning to fade. Through her tight grip I felt the energy and courage it takes to sing in front of people. Each time you do it, you risk public failure. But when it, works, your hold people’s attention, and for a few moments you may change their lives.”

Doris has stood up and is not invisible. She is not only standing up for herself but for Rick who lived his life invisible in the barrio. She risked being mocked by the neighbors but she was able to change the life of her mentor Rick. Throughout the novel the author has highlighted individual stories. Why do you think she used Rick’s party as the closing story? What impact do you think she intended to have? What do you think the clowns and the balloons symbolized?

Write a final three-paragraph essay explaining the impact she intended to have on her neighbors and on herself. Support your ideas and viewpoints with references to the text and to other works, and from your own personal experiences. In your narrative essay include your answers to the following questions: Why do you think the author used Rick’s party as the closing story? What do you think the clowns and the balloons symbolized? Add this final writing product to your writing portfolio.

Character Based Literacy Program
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An Island Like You, Community Connection



A Community Assessment

The stories in *An Island Like You* took place in neighborhoods that could be in any place or any town. Neighborhoods and communities have positives and negatives. Think about your neighborhood. List the positives and negatives of your community/neighborhood (they must be appropriate).

Community Positives	Community Negatives

- Rank your positives and negatives on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the lowest/worst and 1 being the highest/best).
- Choose your top three positives. Describe why those things are positive. What makes those traits desirable? What can you do to continue those traits or make them better?
- Choose your top three negatives. Describe why those things are negative to you? How would your neighborhood or community be better if those things were different or changed? What can you do to change any of those items on your list? Why is it important to make those three things better in your community?

A Better Place

Choose the community negative that means the most to you, the one that impacts you the most. Think of all of the things you can do to change that one item. What would you need to do? What kind of assistance would you need? Pretend you have been given \$500,000.00 to invest in your neighborhood or community. You can create a program, build a park, or help make repairs to existing structures. What would you do to make your neighborhood/community a better place with \$500,000.00?

Project Title: _____

Project Goal or Mission (in 1 concise sentence what do you want to accomplish)

Action Steps (list 5 steps you can take to meet your goal)

What kind of help or assistance do you need? _____

Is there an existing program that could help you meet your goal or mission? _____

Investigate your local neighborhood council. Do they share your concerns?

Budget

Create a budget for your \$500,000.00. How would you spend it to make your mission and goal a reality? Be sure to budget for time, permits, supplies, and utilities if needed.

Summarize

How do you think this project would impact you and your community? Do you think that you could take this project to your city and have them consider it? Do others in your community share the same concerns? Do you think a project like this would be more successful if members of a community determine their needs and create a solution versus a city determining the needs of the community and creating a solution? Why?

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics

www.scu.edu/character

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Extend

What action can you take right now to make change in your local community?

Set a timeline to complete that action _____

What was the outcome? _____
