

## Quarter 4/Unit 2

Title: In My Family

Suggested Time: 4 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RI1, RI2, RI3, RF3, RF4, W2, W4, SL1, SL4, L1, L2, L4

### Teacher Instructions

*Refer to the Introduction for further details.*

#### **Before Teaching**

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

#### Big Ideas and Key Understandings

Culture shape our values and beliefs.

#### Synopsis

In this autobiography, students will see how one person's memories of growing up in a close-knit community bring joy and pride. The author also tells about her childhood fascination with horned toads, about the cactus pads the family would eat in the winter and spring, about family gatherings where empanadas were served, and about birthday and Easter celebrations. Garza shares with great pride her Mexican heritage along with the dances the community would have at the neighborhood restaurant.

2. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
3. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

### **During Teaching**

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.
2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along. (Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)
3. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

### Text Dependent Questions

<b>Text Dependent Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Re-read page 510 why did the author include this introduction? Page 510	The story is an autobiography and explains to the reader her purpose for painting and it's importance in the story.
Carmen is fascinated by horned toads. After reading p.512, name two characteristics of the horned toad? Page 512	They are shaped like frogs but are not frogs. They are lizards. They have horns all over their bodies for protection.
Using the illustration the author has included on page 513 what are some things that the author does not include in the story? Page 513	The illustration shows that the area where the author grew up has cacti. Arturo uses a stick to push an ant toward the horned toad. Arturo is either going to play or has already played baseball.

On page 514 grandfather is shaving off the thorns off the freshly cut cactus pads. What is another name for the cactus pads? Page 114	Another name for cactus pads is Nopalitos.
Why are Nopalitos are called 'the food of last resort'? Page 514	Nopalitos are called the food of "last resort" because during a time when the family had no refrigerators and the winter food supply would run out , cactus pads were eaten until spring.
Aunt Paz and Uncle Bob were making dozens of empanadas. What are empanadas and why are they making so many? Page 515	Empanadas are sweet turnovers filled with sweet potatoes or squash from the garden. The family will be invited to come over and eat as many empanadas as they like.
Using the illustrations on page 516 shows a huge family party. After reading about the birthday barbecue what does the author write that tells us that the whole family is involved? Page 515	Mother made a cake and is getting the meat ready. Father is at the BBQ Grandfather is shoveling coals. Great Uncle is comforting a cousin. Grandmother is holding a baby.
What did the family do after going to church on Easter Sunday? Page 517	They went swimming. Then they ate. After that they brought out the cascarones.
What did the children do with the eggshell that was 'sneaky'? Page 517	They would put flour into the eggshells so that when they broke on your wet head the flour would turn to paste.
What instruments make up a Conjunto band? Page 518	A Conjunto band is made up of a drum, an accordion, a guitar and a bass.
After reading page 518 explain how we know that Carmen loves to dance? Page 518	She said that her love of dance started when she learned to dance with her father and grandfather. Dancing is a celebration and it is like 'heaven'.

	<b>KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING BIG IDEAS OF TEXT</b> Words addressed with a question or task	<b>WORDS WORTH KNOWING</b> Words to be part of systematic vocabulary instruction, not essential for understanding the big ideas of the text
<b>TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION</b> not enough contextual clues provided in the text	Page 510 - culture Page 516 – piñata	Page 516 - mesquite
<b>STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING</b> sufficient context clues are provided in the text	Page 514 – nopalitos Page 515 – empanadas Page 517 – cascarones, confetti Page 518 – El Jardin, conjunto, fiesta	Page 512 - horned

## Culminating Task

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

1. In the autobiography *In My Family* author and illustrator Carmen Lomas Graza shares information about her Mexican American culture through her words and her paintings. Re-read page 510. How does Carmen's Mexican American culture influence her childhood growing up in Kingsville Texas and later as an adult, author illustrator?

Answer: As an adult, each time Carmen paints her purpose is to bring about pride in the Mexican American culture.

Influenced by her childhood her autobiography tells of events that has shaped her life as an author. Her story shares a part of that culture growing up in Kingsville Texas: cleaning and eating nopolitos, making empanadas and sharing them with family members, hitting a piñata at her birthday, the Easter egg, and the dances at the El Jardin.

2. Write a short essay comparing your childhood to that of Carmen's? What traditions does your family have that have influenced you?

## Note to Teacher

- Teachers may want to read pages 520 – 521 Meet the Author and Illustrator.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **“In My Family”**

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3. Using the illustration the author has included on page 513 what are some things that the author does not include in the story? Page 513
4. On page 514 grandfather is shaving off the thorns off the freshly cut cactus pads. What is another name for the cactus pads? Page 514
5. Why are Nopalitos are called ‘the food of last resort’? Page 514
6. Aunt Paz and Uncle Bob were making dozens of empanadas. What are empanadas and why are they making so many? Page 515

7. Using the illustrations on page 516 shows a huge family party. After reading about the birthday barbecue what does the author write that tells us that the whole family is involved? Page 515
  
8. What did the family do after going to church on Easter Sunday? Page 517
  
9. What did the children do with the eggshell that was 'sneaky'? Page 517
  
10. What instruments make up a Conjunto band? Page 518
  
11. After reading page 518 explain how we know that Carmen loves to dance? Page 518



