

Dreamers

Written by Yuyi Morales

Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales is the true story of the author and her son and how books and the library helped them as they immigrated to the United States of America.



Possible strategies for instruction

Comprehension

- **Use prior knowledge to connect with a text.**
 - Before reading, have students share what it is like to start at a brand-new school or go to a new place. Here are some possible questions: What feelings did you have when you walked into your new school? How did you make friends? What would it be like to go to a place where you didn't speak the language? How would you communicate?

- **Ask questions throughout the reading process.**

Possible questions:

- What are your thoughts about the title page? What do you see?
- Where do you think the setting is at the beginning of the story? How do you know?
- Why does the author write "*Adios Corazon*" as she and her son are crossing the bridge?
- Where are they crossing the bridge to?
- On pages 7–8 there are words in the clouds and on banners. What do they say? What does "The sky and the land welcomed us in words unlike those of our ancestors" mean?
- Have you ever made a mistake?
- What does it mean that the author and her son became *caminantes*? How did you figure that out?
- Do you remember the first time you went into a library? How did you feel? Why are the author and her son suspicious?
- Why is getting a library card such a big deal for the author? What did it give her and her little boy?
- What happened when you learned to read? Do you remember?
- How did learning to read English give the author a voice?
- Why is the book called *Dreamers*?

Accuracy

- **Chunk letters and sounds together**
 - Many words provide opportunity to model blending and chunking:
 - bridge, outstretched, thirsty, unable, other, became, unlike

Fluency

- **Read text as the author would say it, conveying the meaning or feeling.**
 - Some people talk about this book as more of a poem. The sentences are short and packed with meaning. Knowing that, how do you say the words? How does the punctuation affect how you say them?

Expand Vocabulary

- **Tune in to interesting words and use new vocabulary in speaking and writing.**
 - Before reading this book, spend some time learning about the following words: *resplendent, bundled, outstretched, immigrants, migrants, ancestors, suspicious, improbable, unbelievable, unimaginable, resilience, dreamers.*
- **Ask someone to define the word for you.**
 - This book is written in English with some beautiful Spanish added in. Understanding what the Spanish words mean is *just as important* as understanding the English words.
 - amor*—love
 - Adios corazon*—Goodbye, my love
 - !ay!*—oh!
 - caminantes*—walkers, hikers
 - lucha*—fight
 - soñadores*—dreamers

This text can be used with nearly any strategy on the CAFE Menu. The above strategies are a highlighted collection to use as a springboard for further instruction.