

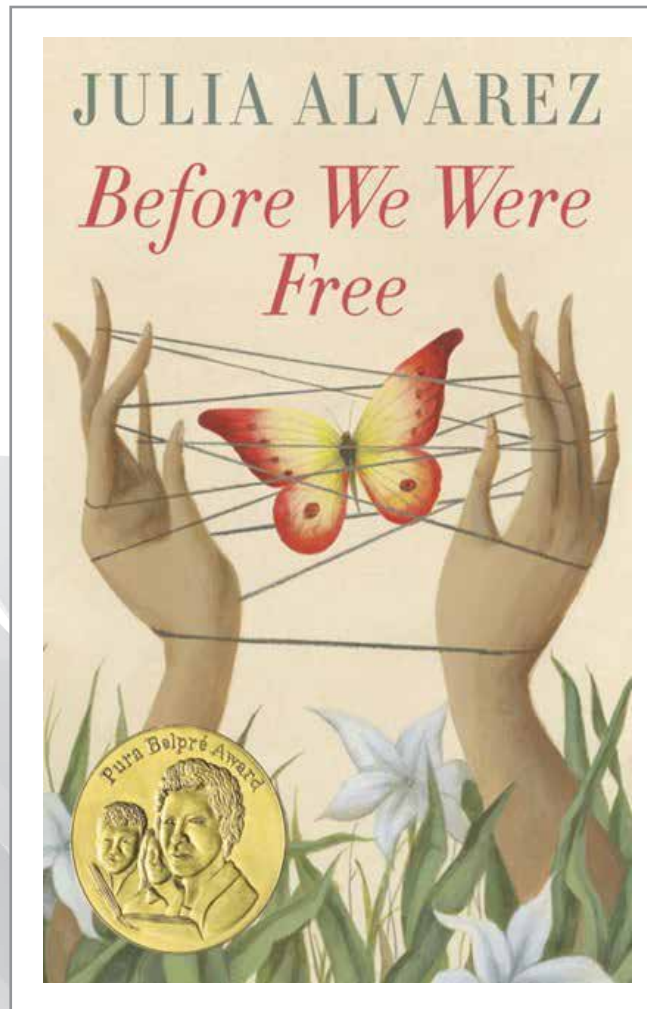


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Before We Were Free

Julia Alvarez



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Before We Were Free
Activity #2 • Geography
Use Before and During Reading

Directions: Use a map of the Dominican Republic and a map of the United States to answer the following questions. Refer to the maps throughout the reading of the book.

1. What bodies of water border the Dominican Republic?
2. What type of weather do you predict the Dominican Republic has?
3. What is the capital of the Dominican Republic?
4. What country shares the island with the Dominican Republic?
5. What is the large island neighbor to the east of the Dominican Republic? Of what country is this island a territory?
6. Find New York on the United States map. Locate New York City. What are the five boroughs of that city? Locate Queens and Manhattan.
7. Describe New York City's climate.

Name _____

6. What is the new maid found cleaning?
7. What message does Anita deliver to Tío Toni's cabin?
8. Who shows up unexpectedly at the party?

Chapter Six, pp. 65–76

1. In her dream, who does Chucha see sprouting wings?
2. Who sends flowers to Lucinda?
3. Who takes care of the phone call from a man wanting Lucinda?
4. What is the first plan for Lucinda's escape?
5. What does Papi say must happen to El Jefe?
6. Where does Anita sleep on Lucinda's last night in her country?
7. What happens to Anita in the night?
8. What does Chucha do with the soiled sheets?
9. What is the second plan for Lucinda's escape?
10. What happens when Lorena sees the coffin?

Chapter Seven, pp. 77–89

1. Why can't Anita stay home to say goodbye to Lucinda?
2. What does Anita call "lying policemen"?
3. What is happening to the American school?
4. What does Papi want Anita to promise?
5. Where does Anita go to school now?
6. Why are people wearing black?
7. How does Lucinda sign her name on letters?
8. How does Anita know the Washburns will be leaving?
9. Why does Mr. Washburn drive the kids to school?
10. What is in the trunk of Mr. Washburn's car?
11. What does the policeman say when he sees the guns?

Name _____

Before We Were Free
Activity #6 • Vocabulary
Chapters Five–Six, pp. 54–76

grievances (55)	potential (56)	pardoned (59)	buffet (64)
squeamish (66)	contaminated (67)	interference (69)	disarray (70)
consolation (71)	sentimental (72)	participating (75)	assassinate (75)

Directions: Choose a word from the vocabulary list. Turn to the page on which it is found in the text. After examining how the word is used in context, complete the word map.

Synonyms _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Magazine cut-out, drawing, or symbol that shows what the word means
Word _____	
Definition in your own words _____ _____ _____ _____	Word used in a sentence _____ _____ _____ _____

Name _____

Directions: Select one of the following topics. Research the topic by using books, the Internet, and other sources in your library. Write a one-page article on your topic. Combine the articles to make a newspaper.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Dictator overthrown | 8. Secret Santa game |
| 2. Patriots go into hiding | 9. Quinceañera parties |
| 3. Learning a new language | 10. Why immigrants form ethnic neighborhoods |
| 4. Responsibilities of a consulate | 11. Political rallies |
| 5. Design of a family compound | 12. Visas |
| 6. Best books selected for twelve-year-old readers | 13. Political prisoners |
| 7. American schools in foreign countries | |

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