

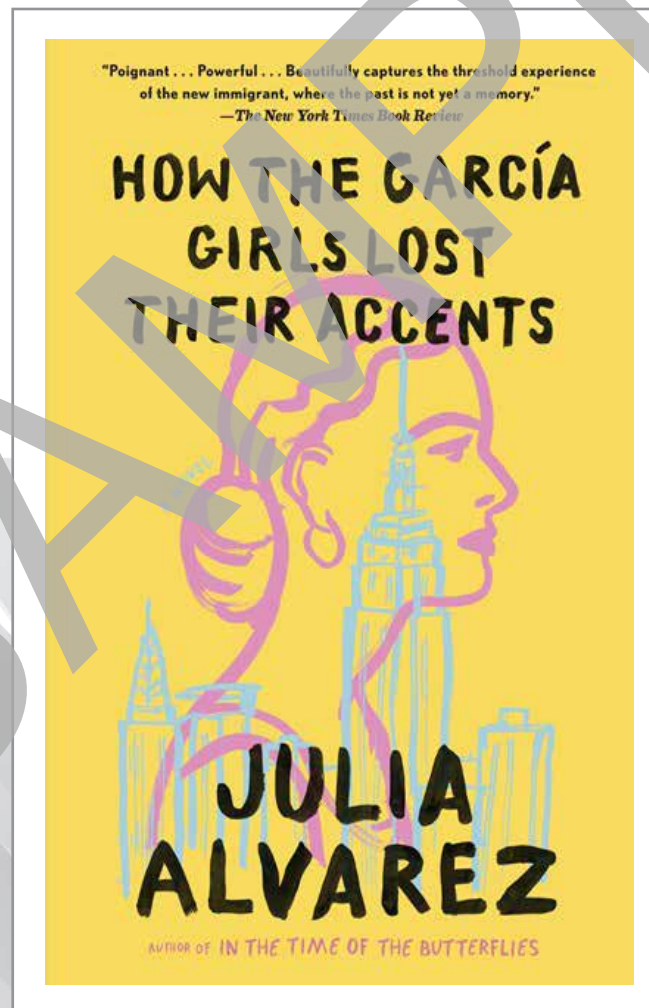


**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 9-12**

# How the García Girls Lost Their Accents

Julia Alvarez



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

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## STUDENT PACKET

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

facsimile (6)  
cede (11)  
enunciates (21)  
coup (32)

collaboration (7)  
machetes (19)  
macho (27)  
feminist (33)

reverts (7)  
collusion (19)  
antagonism (27)  
withdrawn (36)

guerrillas (10)  
docile (20)  
reconciliation (32)  
impassive (39)

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with a word from the vocabulary list. Use the word or phrase in parentheses as a guide. You will not use one of the words.

1. The Dominican men carry \_\_\_\_\_ to harvest the cane. (knives)
2. It seemed as though the father and daughter would never achieve a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(harmonious relationship)
3. Carlos became so \_\_\_\_\_ that he hardly spoke to anyone. (unresponsive)
4. Fifi disliked his \_\_\_\_\_ talk to the baby. (favoring men)
5. Yolanda \_\_\_\_\_ to English because she forgets her Spanish. (returns)
6. Tía Carmen wants Yolanda to think there is \_\_\_\_\_ with other aunts.  
(cooperation)
7. The little girl is an exact \_\_\_\_\_ of her mother Carmencita. (carbon copy)
8. The *campesino* \_\_\_\_\_ carefully so Yolanda can understand him.  
(speaks distinctly)
9. Carlos was upset to see the \_\_\_\_\_ look on Fifi's face. (showing no emotion)
10. Yolanda thought she saw a \_\_\_\_\_ between the two men. (secret pact)
11. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ for Fifi when Carlos lets the husbands attend his birthday celebration. (brilliant success)
12. The aunts warned her that she might encounter \_\_\_\_\_ in the mountains.  
(hostile bands)
13. The little cousin wants to \_\_\_\_\_ her city to get La Romana. (surrender)
14. Fifi feels the old \_\_\_\_\_ when her father ignores her young daughter.  
(hostility)
15. Yolanda thought the men became noticeably \_\_\_\_\_ when she mentioned Miranda. (non-threatening)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your answers to help you prepare for class discussions, writing assignments, and tests. Starred questions indicate thought or opinion questions.

### “Antojos/Yolanda,” pp. 3–23

1. Who is the focus of the party? What can you assume is the year of the party? How are the guests related to each other? What do you learn from the singing of “Here she comes, Miss America!” (p. 4)?
2. \*How long ago was Yolanda’s last visit to the Island? How long ago did Yolanda’s immediate family leave the Island? Recall part/year divisions of the book and estimate Yolanda’s age at the time of the party.
3. \*How does Yolanda feel about her party? Who seems to enjoy the party the most?
4. \*For what does Yolanda wish as she leans over the cake? What can you infer about her from this wish?
5. Why is the party held at Tía Carmen’s house? What does the living arrangement of the compound reveal about the significance of family in Island life?
6. \*What does the presence of servants tell you about the family? Why do you think the author includes information about the servants?
7. How does Yolanda respond when she is asked about her *antojo*? What does she conclude about her Spanish?
8. \*Why are the old aunts concerned about Yolanda’s plan to travel alone? What Island situation is indicated by the remarks of the old aunts and the presence of a private guard? Why do you think Yolanda wants to travel alone?
9. Why are so many relatives available for Yolanda to contact as she travels?
10. \*Why does the Altamira grandmother discourage Yolanda from picking guavas? What is meant by the following comment: “The old woman has turned into the long arm of her family” (p. 16)?
11. \*Do you think the two men who fix the tire pose a danger to Yolanda? Why or why not?
12. **Prediction:** Will Yolanda make the Island her permanent home?

### “The Kiss/Sofía,” pp. 24–39

1. What tradition does the family observe for the father’s birthday? How does Sofía alter this tradition?
2. What is unusual about the money the father gives his daughters for his birthday? What do you learn about his past life from the explanation about the money?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Using Dialogue

**Directions:** Choose some dialogue from the book. Fill in the chart to evaluate the purpose of the dialogue and whether it is effective in moving along the plot.

Who is speaking?

How is the plot advanced or situation explained with these words?

Dialogue on Pages  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is special about the dialogue?

What does the dialogue tell me about the characters speaking?