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Movie Studies:

- The Bee Movie
- The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler
- Defiance
- The Giver
- The Greatest Showman
- Holes
- Life is Beautiful
- Meet the Robinsons
- Newsies
- Secondhand Lions
- The Sound of Music
- The Zookeeper's Wife
- And more!

Novel Studies:

- I Am David by Anne Holm
- Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes by Jonathan Auxier
- Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz
- Sweep by Jonathan Auxier
- And more!

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Name: _____ Date: _____

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Think about the past year in your life. What changes have you had in your life?

2. Were these good or bad changes? How did you handle these changes?

3. Have you ever been the “new kid” at school, event, or other place? How did it make you feel? If you have not, imagine how you might feel.

4. Who lives in your home with you?

5. What are some traditions your family has?

6. Have you ever been bullied before, or have you seen someone bully another person? How did you respond?

7. Do you have any social media accounts (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat)? Why do you use these accounts?

8. Do you know what Alzheimer’s disease is? If yes, explain. If not, guess what it is.

Name: _____ Date: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes Merci different from her peers at Seaward Pines?

2. Why does Merci have to do extra community service? How does she feel about this?

3. What is a Sunshine Buddy? Why might a Sunshine Buddy be helpful?

4. Why does Edna say “no offense” to Merci before saying something mean? Do you think her reasoning makes it okay?

5. “Maybe” is a complicated term. What does “maybe” mean to Merci? What does “maybe” mean to you?

6. What are some strange things that Lolo begins doing?

7. What are some traditions that Merci’s family has?

8. How does Merci’s family support her?

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI SUÁREZ COVER ANALYSIS

Examine the cover of *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*. Then, answer the questions below.

1. Who is the author of this book?

2. What notable award was *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* awarded?

3. Describe the different colors on the cover.

4. Describe the girl on the cover. What can you tell by looking at her?

5. Think about the background. Where do you think the story will be set?

Read the inside flap or back cover of the book. Were your predictions correct?

Draw your own cover of *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* below!

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUIZ: CHAPTERS 1-5

1. Why were the cops called on Lolo?
A. He was acting like a crazy person B. He picked up the wrong twins from day care
C. He threw a bottle at the police D. He stole a pear
2. Where does Merci go to school?
A. Beachside Bay Academy B. Ocean View Academy
C. Seaward Pines Academy D. Peony Prep Academy
3. Who is Lolo?
A. Merci's brother B. Merci's uncle
C. Merci's father D. Merci's grandfather
4. What does Mami do for a living?
A. Physical therapist B. Farmer
C. Dentist D. Sales clerk
5. What does Lolo give Merci to protect her from Edna?
A. An azabache B. Lucky rabbit's foot
C. Four leaf clover D. Charm bracelet
6. What do Merci and Roli have to do extra of in order to attend their school on scholarship?
A. Homework B. Community service
C. Classes D. All of these
7. What job is Merci given?
A. Safety patrol B. Teacher's assistant
C. Hall monitor D. Sunshine Buddy ambassador
8. What's the first rule Lolo taught Merci about making deals?
A. Never accept the first offer B. Always give in
C. Don't take "no" for an answer D. Be relentless
9. Who is Michael Clark?
A. Merci's worst enemy B. The school bully
C. The new student at school D. Edna's boyfriend
10. What is the purpose of a Sunshine Buddy?
A. To always have a class partner B. To give new students their first friend
C. To mentor younger students D. To help older students make new friends
11. Why does Merci not want to be Michael's Sunshine Buddy?

12. Describe Edna.

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUIZ: CHAPTERS 6-11

1. What does Lolo fall off of?
A. Car
B. Scooter
C. Chair
D. Ladder
2. Where did Merci's father grow up?
A. Indiana
B. Mexico
C. Brazil
D. Cuba
3. Why doesn't Merci eat school lunches?
A. It's American food
B. They're too expensive
C. They're not healthy
D. Both B and C
4. Merci's parents will let her go to the movies on one condition. What is it?
A. Merci pays for her own ticket
B. Roli goes too
C. Lolo goes too
D. The movie is rated PG
5. What movie does Merci go see?
A. Indiana Jones
B. Avengers
C. Iguanador Nation Rises
D. The Lion King
6. According to Merci, what does "maybe" mean?
A. Probably not
B. Possibly
C. Never
D. It could happen
7. Why is Merci surprised about Roli's prom date, Ahana?
A. The two always fought
B. Ahana bullied Merci in second grade
C. The two are rivals
D. Ahana wasn't pretty
8. What is Seaward's mascot?
A. Ram
B. Pug
C. Peacock
D. Giraffe
9. What does Roli tell Merci about love?
A. Boys are trouble
B. Follow your heart
C. Love is all you need in life
D. Love is complicated
10. Why can't Papi put Merci on payroll?
A. Child labor laws
B. Mami wants her to focus on school
C. Merci's not old enough
D. All of these
11. What things does Lolo begin forgetting?

12. In what ways does Merci struggle with fitting in?

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUIZ: CHAPTERS 12-17

1. What happens to Lolo at the pier?
A. Lolo gets into a fight B. Lolo trips and falls
C. Lolo gets sick D. Lolo gets lost
2. What permission slip does Mami refuse to sign?
A. Soccer tryouts B. Basketball practice
C. School party D. Zoo field trip
3. What do the boys at school steal from Merci?
A. Her homework B. Her shoes
C. Her lunch D. Her backpack
4. Why does Merci get detention?
A. She spread a rumor about Edna B. She cheated on a test
C. She punched a bully D. She hit Michael with a baseball
5. How can Merci get out of a day's worth of detention?
A. Tattling B. Writing an apology note
C. Cleaning chalkboards D. All of these
6. What does Merci find in the refrigerator?
A. Lolo's glasses B. Lolo's phone
C. Roli's report card D. Papi's paint brush
7. What homework assignment is Merci given?
A. Interview a grandparent B. Create a science project
C. Shadow a parent at work D. Writing messages in hieroglyphics
8. Why doesn't Papi bring up the incident with Lolo at the pier?

9. How do other students treat Michael after the accident?

10. Papi tells Merci, "So the value you add to the school has to come from you, because it's not coming from our wallets." Do you think this is fair?

11. Why won't Mami sign Merci's permission slip?

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUIZ: CHAPTERS 18-25

- How does Lolo react to Grands Day?
A. Happily
B. Sadly
C. Angry
D. Timidly
- Why is Michael coming over to Merci's house?
A. Lolo invited him over
B. He's getting fitted for a costume
C. Mami wants Merci to apologize
D. Papi wants to meet him
- What does Abuela make Michael?
A. A scarf
B. A toy scarecrow
C. A mask
D. A hat
- What does Merci lay on Ms. Tannenbaum's desk?
A. Michael's festival costume
B. Her glasses
C. Michael's homework
D. Her phone
- Ms. Tannenbaum tells Merci, "There's too much **commotion** right now." What is a synonym for commotion?
A. Disturbance
B. Quietness
C. Troubled
D. Love
- Who does Merci think wrecked Michael's costume?
A. Roli
B. Edna
C. Papi
D. Lolo
- What happened last year when Edna promised to take Merci to Coral Cove?
A. Edna throws Merci off a boat
B. They see a dolphin
C. They had a great time
D. They never go
- Who won the candy corn at the party?
A. Edna
B. Michael
C. Merci
D. Lena
- What is different about Merci's house compared to her friend's houses? Name at least two things.

- What are some of the mean things that Edna does to Merci?

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUIZ: CHAPTERS 26-32

1. What happens to Merci and Roli?
A. They find Edna bullying Michael B. They get into a car accident
C. They get lost D. They get pulled over while driving
2. What condition does Lolo have?
A. Alzheimer's disease B. Lyme disease
C. Polio D. Short term memory loss syndrome
3. What does Merci's class make for her?
A. A cake B. Cupcakes
C. A card D. Friendship bracelets
4. Who does Lena choose from her two assistants?
A. Edna and Michael B. Hannah and Merci
C. Edna and Merci D. Merci and Michael
5. Who gets to be the model for the mummy?
A. Merci B. Michael
C. Edna D. Lena
6. What happens to the person who is the mummy model?

7. How does the class react to this?
A. They laugh B. They cry
C. They are mad D. They are shocked
8. Summarize Merci's thoughts about this incident.

9. Summarize Edna's thoughts about this incident.

10. Summarize Michael's thoughts about this incident.

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUIZ: CHAPTERS 33-38

1. What does Mami make Merci buy for Edna?
A. Cookies
B. Card and eyebrow pencil
C. A new bike
D. A new bike
2. "Miss McDaniels narrows her eyes at me like a cat." What type of figurative language is this?
A. Simile
B. Metaphor
C. Personification
D. Onomatopoeia
3. How does Merci know that Edna and Jamie wrecked Michael's costume?
A. Ms. Tannenbaum sees them
B. The principal sees them
C. She finds evidence in Edna's bag
D. Security footage
4. Who stays at Merci's house for dinner?
A. Edna and Michael
B. Jamie and Hannah
C. Edna and Miss McDaniels
D. Hannah and Lena
5. What is Nochebuena?
A. New Year's Day
B. Christmas Eve
C. Thanksgiving
D. Winter break
6. What does Merci receive for Christmas?
A. A bike
B. An expensive dress
C. A scholarship opportunity
D. All of these
7. What are Merci's thoughts on change at the end of the novel?

8. Give an example of a good change that happened in Merci's life.

9. Give an example of a bad change that happened in Merci's life.

Name: _____ Date: _____

SPANISH VOCABULARY

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ___ 1. Hola | A. Good day |
| ___ 2. Adios | B. Hello |
| ___ 3. Tia | C. Grandma |
| ___ 4. Hermano | D. Aunt |
| ___ 5. Las Casitas | E. Brother |
| ___ 6. Nina | F. Goodbye |
| ___ 7. Mi vida | G. The little houses |
| ___ 8. Buenos dias | H. Evil eye |
| ___ 9. Tacano | I. Old |
| ___ 10. Viejo | J. Stingy/cheap |
| ___ 11. Por favor | K. My life |
| ___ 12. Abuela | L. Please |
| ___ 13. Mal de ojo | M. My child (daughter) |

Name: _____ Date: _____

VOCABULARY PART 1

The following are vocabulary words from chapters 1-11. Use context clues to see if you can figure out the meaning of the words!

Exasperated (2)

Context clues:

Definition:

Contraband (3)

Context clues:

Definition:

Percolated (5)

Context clues:

Definition:

Resin (5)

Context clues:

Definition:

Demoralize (7)

Context clues:

Definition:

Splice (8)

Context clues:

Definition:

Warden (8)

Context clues:

Definition:

Kiln (9)

Context clues:

Definition:

Logophile (10)

Context clues:

Definition:

Detonated (11)

Context clues:

Definition:

Insomniac (11)

Context clues:

Definition:

Withering (11)

Context clues:

Definition:

Name: _____ Date: _____

VOCABULARY PART 2

The following are vocabulary words from chapters 15-38. Use context clues to see if you can figure out the meaning of the words!

Reckless (15)

Context clues:

Definition:

Impede (15)

Context clues:

Definition:

Deity (20)

Context clues:

Definition:

Potent (21)

Context clues:

Definition:

Impediment (23)

Context clues:

Definition:

Jul (25)

Context clues:

Definition:

Immortalized (30)

Context clues:

Definition:

Maliciously (34)

Context clues:

Definition:

Prim (34)

Context clues:

Definition:

Charismatic (34)

Context clues:

Definition:

Somber (38)

Context clues:

Definition:

Mirage (38)

Context clues:

Definition:

Name: _____ Date: _____

VOCABULARY FROM MERCI SUÁREZ

contraband

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

demoralize

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

insomniac

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

detonated

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

potent

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

charismatic

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

malicious

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

somber

Definition:

Use it in a sentence:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

Name: _____ Date: _____

THEMES

Give examples of the following themes. Use at least two specific examples from the text.

FAMILY

GROWING UP

FRIENDSHIP

Name: _____ Date: _____

TRAITS OF MERCI

When does Merci show each of the following traits? Use examples from the text.

SELFISH

GENEROUS / COMPASSIONATE

CHILDLIKE

MATURE

COURAGEOUS

CURIOUS

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI AND EDNA

Describe Merci and Edna's relationship in the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. What specific events happen between them?

MERCI AND EDNA IN THE BEGINNING

MERCI AND EDNA IN THE MIDDLE

MERCI AND EDNA IN THE END

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI'S FAMILY

Describe each of the following characters. Give examples of their physical traits. Describe them with specific character traits. Use examples from the story.

MAMI

PAPI

LOLO

ABUELA

ROLI

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI'S FAMILY VS OTHERS

Merci lives with her extended family in a Cuban-American environment rich with heritage. Compare and contrast Merci's family with the families of the other kids at school.

MERCI'S FAMILY

FAMILY MEMBERS

TRADITIONS/CULTURE

OTHER THINGS

KIDS AT SCHOOL

FAMILY MEMBERS

TRADITIONS/CULTURE

OTHER THINGS

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI AND ROLI

Compare and contrast Merci and Roli. What do they have in common? What makes them different from each other?

MERCI

SIMILARITIES

ROLI

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI AND YOU

Compare and contrast Merci and you. What do you two have in common? What makes you different from each other? Think of family, character traits, background, school life, and talents.

MERCI

SIMILARITIES

YOU

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUOTES FROM MERCI

Examine these quotes from the novel. What is their significance to Merci? Do you agree or disagree with them? How can each quote be applied to your life? Give examples from the text and your own life.

1. How does it work that the same kids who followed Edna around all the time really seemed to like seeing her in trouble? How can somebody popular have so many people glad to see her crash? *Maybe like* might be confusing, but *popular* is even weirder. Turns out, it's not the same thing as having friends at all. (ch. 35)

2. "I don't know what is going to happen next year, no one does. But that's OK. I can handle it, I decide. It's just a harder gear, and I am ready. All I have to do is take a deep breath and ride." (ch. 38)

Name: _____ Date: _____

SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING

Merci goes inside a senior assisted living center and becomes anxious. Weigh pros and cons of senior assisted living centers. Are they all good? Are they all bad?

PROS OF SENIOR LIVING CENTERS

CONS OF SENIOR LIVING CENTERS

Name: _____ Date: _____

MERCI'S OLD AND NEW SCHOOL

In the box on the left, describe Merci's old school. In the box on the right, describe Seaward Pines Academy. In the bottom box, draw Merci at Seaward Pines Academy.

MERCI'S OLD SCHOOL

SEAWARD PINES ACADEMY

BOTH

Name: _____ Date: _____

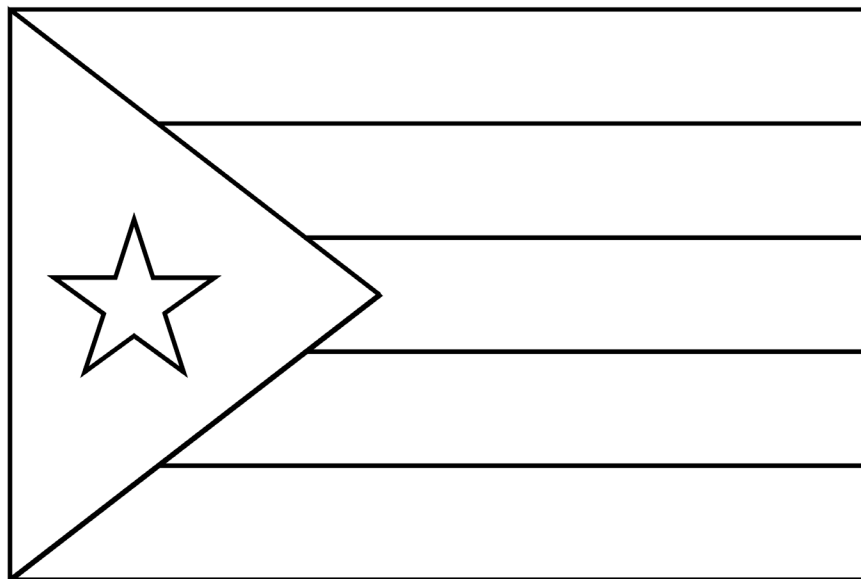
CUBA

The Cuban flag has a red triangle and blue and white alternating stripes. The top of the stripes is blue. Color the flag below!

1. What is the capital of Cuba? _____
2. What is Cuba's national anthem? _____
3. What continent is Cuba on? _____
4. What is the official language of Cuba? _____
5. What is the population of Cuba? _____

FIND AT LEAST FIVE OTHER FACTS ABOUT CUBA!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Name: _____ Date: _____

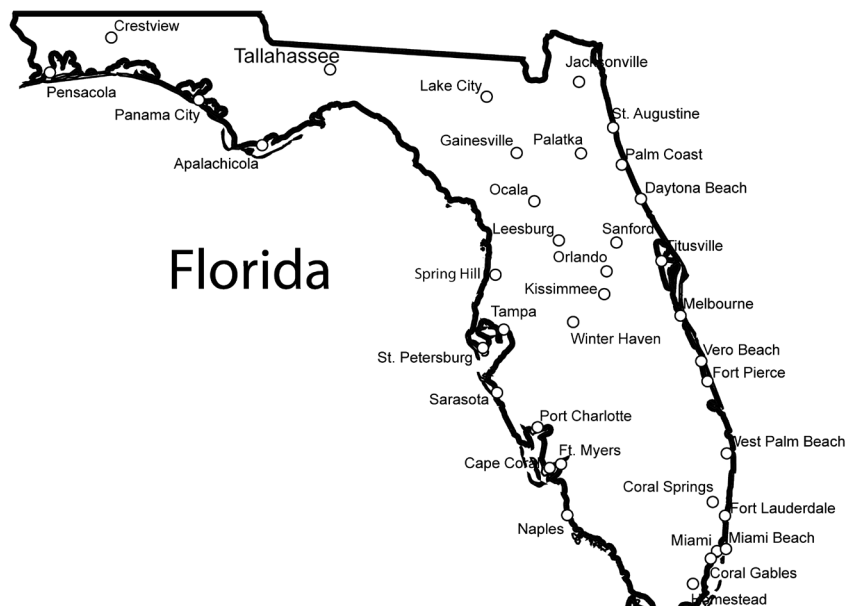
FLORIDA: THE SUNSHINE STATE

Florida is a southern state in America. It borders Alabama, Georgia, and the Gulf of Mexico. The state capital is Tallahassee.

Florida is known for its great economy and warm weather. Its economy is the fourth largest in the United States. Every part of the state is near the ocean. It is famous for being the warmest state in America. It rarely receives a lot of snow! Tourists can be seen on the beaches of Florida or at Disney World! Over 60,000 people visit Disney World every day.

Orange blossoms are the state flower. Mockingbirds are the state bird.

Other Facts About Florida:



ANSWER KEY

Ch. 1-5

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. B

Ch. 6-11

1. A
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. D
10. D

Ch. 12-17

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. D

Ch. 18-25

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. D
8. C

Ch. 26-32

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. Edna gets her eyebrows
ripped off
7. A

Ch. 33-38

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. B
6. A

Spanish

1. B
2. F
3. D
4. E
5. G
6. M
7. K
8. A
9. J
10. I
11. L
12. C
13. H

Cuba

1. Havana
2. La Bayamesa
3. North America
4. Spanish
5. 11 million