



Dreamers Yuyi Morales

New York Times Bestseller

- ★ *Booklist*
- ★ *The Bulletin*
- ★ *The Horn Book*
- ★ *Kirkus Reviews*
- ★ *School Library Journal*
- ★ *Shelf Awareness*

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NEAL PORTER BOOKS

About the Book

Yuyi Morales's *Dreamers* celebrates imagination and creativity, and suggests ways for readers to unleash the power of dreaming in their own stories. *Dreamers* is a tour de force, documenting the essential nature of art and literacy in Morales's own life while encouraging all children to find and follow their own dreams and tell their own stories.

Getting Started: Pre-Reading

Before reading *Dreamers*, show the cover and read the title and author's name (don't forget to say that she is both author and illustrator). Ask students to predict what the book will be about. Remind students that predictions are neither right nor wrong—they simply reflect our best thinking based on what we already know.

Ask students to define what they think it means to dream. Expect them to have very diverse answers to these questions. Be prepared to respond in a manner that affirms the value of dreaming.

Much of the United States is filled with people who are descendants of immigrants. Show students a globe and provide an overview of some of the many different populations who immigrated to the United States. Be prepared to answer questions honestly from students about topics that could include things like slavery, our treatment of the various indigenous nations living here first, fear of others, and more.



Discussion Questions and Activities

- Encourage students to bring in their favorite bedtime story or the one that used to be their favorite when they were younger. Ask them why that book means so much to them. Be sensitive to the fact that many students may not have the same loving family situation as depicted in this book. Adapt as necessary.
- Morales always includes wonderful detail in her art that sets the tone for her stories. Read Morales's "How I Made this Book" note on the verso page (in the back). Have students draw objects or places that are important to them and share how these objects and places make them feel.
- Play music without lyrics. Have students draw pictures of the music and how it makes them feel. Video record their answers. Turn the art and video into an online presentation to share with classmates and families. Transcribe the video and combine with the artwork to make a book for the class.

Language

The Spanish words in this book include amor, adiós, corazón, migrantes, ay, estación, sí, se, puede, caminantes, lucha, soñadores. Some words are next to their English translation, such as, "Amor—Love—Amor." Others are on signs or embedded in the art and belong together like, "Sí se puede." Just as Yuyi and her son had to figure out meanings from context and pictures, have students try to translate the words FIRST based on context, pictures, and how the words make them feel.

The English vocabulary words are excellent words for beginning readers to explore. Add to your word walls or make flash cards with: appeared, resplendent, bundled, outstretched, universe, thirsty, awe, immigrants, welcomed, ancestors, thousands, suspicious, improbable, unbelievable, surprising, unimaginable, language, voices, imagined, and resilience. As with the Spanish words, have students predict what they think the words say and what the words mean in context. Have students draw pictures and define these words, and add these pictures to the definitions on your word wall.

Science Interlude

Beginning on the second spread, Yuyi includes Monarch butterflies throughout the book. You can do a science assessment by having students draw the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly in order.

This guide is aligned with the Common Core Curriculum standards.

For an extensive downloadable guide

including curriculum connections and Yuyi Morales's own instructions on how readers can make their own books to share their stories, visit HolidayHouse.com.

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#ReadDreamers