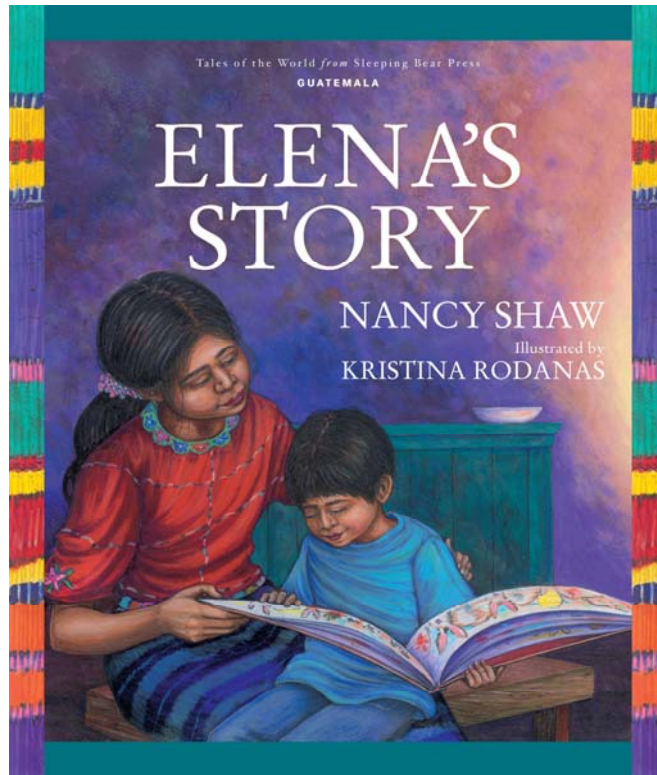


Teacher's Guide



Elena's Story

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ELENA'S STORY

Vocabulary

Before, during, or after reading *Elena's Story*, complete the vocabulary chart below to better understand the lifestyle of the fictional characters living in western Guatemala.

Word	Predict the meaning of the word	Actual definition	Create a complete sentence using the word
<u>Tamales</u> "We built a fire and cooked some tamales."			
<u>Clung</u> "Our feet ached and dust clung to us as we walked home."			
<u>Dim</u> "This morning I dressed in dim light."			
<u>Blouse</u> "I stepped into my <i>corte</i> and tucked the blouse into it."			
<u>Sash</u> "I tied a rainbow-striped sash around my waist to hold it up."			
<u>Hacked</u> "I hacked at the dirt with a hoe."			
<u>Trudged</u> "Then we trudged to my school, up and down the steep dusty road."			
<u>Tortillas</u> "We ate some tortillas for breakfast."			
<u>Plantation</u> "Papa speaks more Spanish, but he works far away, on a plantation."			

ELENA'S STORY

Grow, Buy, Make



Carefully make a list of all of the food mentioned in *Elena's Story*. Then, work with a partner to determine what the family can grow on its own and what foods need to be purchased. In the remaining three boxes, list one thing you can grow, one thing you can buy, and one thing you can make.

Food	Grow	Buy	Make

ELENA'S STORY



Research Guatemala



Elena and her family live in a fictional town in the country of Guatemala. Use the Internet, textbooks, encyclopedias, and almanacs to learn more about the lifestyle in the country of Guatemala.

1. Guatemala is located in Central America, between North America and _____.
2. What four countries border Guatemala? _____
3. What ocean is to the west of Guatemala? _____
4. What is the population of Guatemala? _____
5. What are some popular foods in Guatemala? _____
6. What is the official language of Guatemala? _____
7. What is the capital city of Guatemala? _____
8. What is the date that Guatemala gained its independence from Spain? _____
9. What is the highest point in Guatemala? _____
10. What is the literacy rate in Guatemala? (How many people know how to read and write?) _____

Draw the Guatemala flag in the box below.



ELENA'S STORY

Facts about the Book

Before or after reading *Elena's Story*, answer the questions below. You can use the cover of the book to answer questions 1-3.

1. The author is the person that writes the words of a book. Who is the author of *Elena's Story*?
2. The illustrator is the person that creates the pictures of a book. Who is the illustrator of *Elena's Story*?
3. *Elena's Story* is part of a series called Tales of the World. From what country does this tale originate?

The copyright page is the page that is usually at the front of a book that includes information about the book publisher, publishing date, and other important information about the book. Use the copyright page to answer the following questions.

4. Who did Nancy Shaw dedicate the book to?
5. Who did Kristina Rodanas dedicate the book to?
6. In what year were both the text and illustrations copyrighted?
7. In what city and state is Sleeping Bear Press, the publishing company that published *Elena's Story*?
8. On the copyright page it also lists the Web page for the publishing company. What is the publishing company's Web site? The publishing company's Web site also links to www.discovertheworldbooks.com in which you can find games, maps, recipes and more!
9. *Elena's Story* was printed and bound (put together) in what country?
10. The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is like a phone number or address for books. Each book has its own ISBN number. It is usually 13 numbers long. What is the ISBN number for *Elena's Story*?

ELENA'S STORY

Fact or Opinion

After reading *Elena's Story*, determine if each sentence is a fact or an opinion. When you have finished the six examples from the story, create two factual statements and two opinion sentences.



- _____ 1. Elena's father works on a plantation.
- _____ 2. The best way to read is by candlelight.
- _____ 3. Elena and her mother built a fire to cook tamales.
- _____ 4. Planting crops is hard work.
- _____ 5. Ana slept on Mama's back.
- _____ 6. *Conejo* means "rabbit" in Spanish.
- _____ 7. _____
- _____ 8. _____
- _____ 9. _____
- _____ 10. _____

ELENA'S STORY

Jobs and Chores



Make a list of jobs or chores that Elena has. Then make a list of jobs that you have.

Jobs or Chores that Elena has	Jobs or Chores that you have
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•

Do you have any jobs in common with Elena? If so, what are they?

If you could trade one job with Elena, what would it be and why?

ELENA'S STORY

Corn Tortillas

Corn tortillas in Guatemala are made by hand. Follow the directions below carefully to create your own handmade corn tortillas!

The link below directs you to a video that shows the creation of authentic tortillas! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKCNyzkroZU&feature=related>

Ingredients:

2 cups masa harina

1 1/4 cups water

1/4 tsp salt



Masa harina is not the same as cornmeal. Masa harina is processed with lime to create a unique taste and texture.

Combine all ingredients and knead for a few minutes until you have a Play-Doh-like consistency.

Once this process is complete, you are ready to make your tortillas. You'll want to have a frying pan or griddle (or *comal*, an authentic cooking pan) on the burner and heated before beginning.

Divide the *masa* into 15 even round balls. If you want larger tortillas, make larger *masa* balls. Cover them with a damp cloth so that they do not dry out while making the others. Keep a bowl of water close so that you can add small amounts if the *masa* starts to dry out.

Place one ball between two pieces of plastic. You could cut off the ends of a sandwich bag. Next, use your hands to shape each ball into a flat tortilla. This method is known as "clapping."

Once the dough balls are flat between the plastic, remove the plastic from the corn tortillas. Cook on medium heat on the ungreased pan, griddle, or *comal* for about a minute per side. You will know they are finished when little black dots appear on the tortilla.

Repeat this process with all other corn dough balls that you made to create delicious corn tortillas.

ELENA'S STORY

Character Traits

After reading *Elena's Story*, complete the character trait chart below. Use the text and the pictures to give you clues about who they are. When you have completed the five characters in the book, list character traits that you have, and traits of one other person that you know.

	<u>Physical</u> Hair, eyes, height, age, clothing, nationality	<u>General</u> Job, talents, sports, education, confidence	<u>Relationships</u> Who they live with, who they spend time with, siblings, children, friends,
Elena			
Luis			
Ana			
Mama			
Papa			
You Name:			
Someone you know Name:			

ELENA'S STORY

Sequence of Events

After reading *Elena's Story*, cut out the sentence strips below and glue them in the order that they occurred in the story.

They trudged down the dusty road to Elena's school.

Elena tied the rainbow-striped sash around her waist to hold it up.

Elena and her family walked to the town library.

Elena read a story to Luis.

They built a fire and cooked tamales.

Mama fell asleep with Ana on her back.

Elena and her family planted corn and beans.

Elena and Luis played with a rubber ball.

Mama took Ana and Luis to the parent meeting.

Mama tells Elena that it is her job to watch Luis.

ELENA'S STORY

Answer Key

Vocabulary

Tamales: A dish of cornmeal dough steamed in leaves or corn husks, often made with a filling

Clung: Held on tightly to

Dim: Not shining brightly or clearly

Blouse: A woman's loose upper garment resembling a shirt

Sash: A long strip or loop of cloth worn over one shoulder or around the waist

Hacked: Cut with rough or heavy blows

Trudged: Walked slowly and with heavy steps, typically because of exhaustion or harsh conditions

Tortillas: A thin, flat cornmeal pancake, eaten hot or cold, typically with a savory filling

Plantation: An estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco are cultivated by resident labor

Grow, Buy, Make

Foods listed in the story: Tortillas, tamales, rice, salt, corn, beans, carrots

Grow: corn, beans, carrots

Buy: salt, rice

Make: tortillas, tamales

Guatemala Research:

- 1) South America
- 2) Mexico, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador
- 3) Pacific Ocean
- 4) Answer varies depending on year; 14.7 million (estimated in 2011)
- 5) Answers vary: corn, beans, rice, cheese, tortillas
- 6) Spanish
- 7) Guatemala City
- 8) September 15, 1821
- 9) Tajumulco Volcano, 4,220 meters/ 13,845 ft. above sea level.
- 10) Answers vary depending on year; 71% in 2003



Facts about the Book

1. Nancy Shaw
2. Kristina Rodanas
3. Guatemala
4. "The wonderful people we met in Guatemala"
5. Rose Rice
6. 2012
7. Ann Arbor, Michigan
8. www.sleepingbearpress.com
9. China
10. 978-1-58536-528-9

Fact or Opinion

- 1) Fact
- 2) Opinion
- 3) Fact
- 4) Opinion
- 5) Fact
- 6) Fact

ELENA'S STORY

Jobs and Chores

Elena: student, watch Luis, cook, plant crops, play with Luis, teach Luis how to help, reader

Sequence of Events

1. Elena tied the rainbow-striped sash around her waist to hold it up.
2. Mama tells Elena that it is her job to watch Luis.
3. They trudged down the dusty road to Elena's school.
4. Mama took Ana and Luis to the parent meeting.
5. Elena and her family walked to the town library.
6. They built a fire and cooked tamales.
7. Elena and her family planted corn and beans.
8. Elena and Luis played with a rubber ball.
9. Mama fell asleep with Ana on her back.
10. Elena read a story to Luis.