

Chapter-by-Chapter Resources

1. "Under the Wire"

- **Theme:** Immigration and Displacement
 - **Exert:** The family's journey across the border.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - How does the author describe the family's emotions during the crossing?
 - What does this journey symbolize for the family?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the psychological impact of such a journey on children.
 - How might immigration laws affect families like Panchito's today?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Border Stories:** Research and present current stories of families crossing borders. Compare them with Panchito's experience.
-

2. "Soledad"

- **Theme:** Loneliness and Isolation
 - **Exert:** Panchito working alone in the fields.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - How does loneliness manifest in Panchito's daily life?
 - How does he find solace in his environment?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - What coping mechanisms do people use when they feel isolated?
 - How does the community or lack thereof play a role in Panchito's life?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Artistic Expression:** Create an artwork that represents loneliness, inspired by Panchito's experience in the fields.
-

3. "Inside Out"

- **Theme:** Education and Alienation
- **Exert:** Panchito's first day at school in the United States.
- **Reflective Questions:**
 - What challenges does Panchito face in his new school?
 - How does the language barrier contribute to his sense of alienation?
- **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the importance of language in shaping one's identity.

- How can schools better support students who are English language learners?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Language Barrier Simulation:** Conduct a class activity where students must communicate without using their primary language, then discuss their experiences.
-

4. "Miracle in Tent City"

- **Theme:** Hope and Resilience
 - **Exert:** The arrival of a new baby in the family.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - How does the birth of a new family member bring hope to the family?
 - In what ways does the family show resilience despite their difficult circumstances?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss how new life or hope can emerge even in the toughest situations.
 - How do small victories contribute to the family's overall resilience?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Resilience Poster:** Create a poster that highlights examples of resilience from the book and compare them to modern-day examples.
-

5. "El Angel de Oro"

- **Theme:** Nature and Survival
 - **Exert:** The family's relationship with nature and the goldfish.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - What does the goldfish symbolize in the story?
 - How does nature play a role in the family's survival?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the significance of animals and nature in providing comfort and hope.
 - How does the natural environment affect the family's lifestyle?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Symbolism Activity:** Write a short essay on what the goldfish represents in the story, and create your own symbol of hope.
-

6. "Christmas Gift" - Short Video Available: [A Christmas in Tent City](#)

- **Theme:** Poverty and Sacrifice
- **Exert:** The family's modest Christmas celebration.
- **Reflective Questions:**

- How does the family's economic situation influence their holiday traditions?
 - What does Christmas represent for Panchito and his family?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the different ways people celebrate holidays under financial constraints.
 - How does poverty affect family dynamics and values?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Creative Gift Exchange:** Organize a class activity where students create meaningful gifts with limited resources and exchange them.
-

7. "Death Forgiven"

- **Theme:** Grief and Loss
 - **Exert:** The death of Panchito's pet parrot.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - How does Panchito cope with the loss of his pet?
 - What does this event teach Panchito about life and death?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the role of pets in children's lives and how they help with emotional development.
 - How can grief be a learning experience for young people?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Memory Box:** Create a memory box for something or someone important in your life, reflecting on what they mean to you.
-

8. "Cotton Sack"

- **Theme:** Labor and Family Responsibility
 - **Exert:** Panchito's experience picking cotton with his family.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - What does the cotton sack symbolize for Panchito?
 - How does the work in the fields shape Panchito's understanding of responsibility?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the concept of child labor and its impact on education and childhood.
 - How do family responsibilities affect a child's development?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Fieldwork Simulation:** Research child labor laws and simulate a debate on whether they should be stricter or more lenient.
-

9. "The Circuit"

- **Theme:** Transience and the Search for Stability
 - **Exert:** The family's continuous moves and their impact on Panchito's life.
 - **Reflective Questions:**
 - How does the constant moving affect Panchito and his education?
 - What is the significance of the title *The Circuit*?
 - **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the challenges of maintaining stability in a transient lifestyle.
 - How does transience affect one's sense of identity and belonging?
 - **Activity:**
 - **Stability Collage:** Create a collage that represents the concept of stability versus instability using images from magazines or online sources.
-

10. "Learning the Game"

- **Theme:** Assimilation and Belonging
- **Exert:** Panchito's experiences learning to fit in with his peers.
- **Reflective Questions:**
 - What does learning the game symbolize in this chapter?
 - How does Panchito navigate the challenges of fitting in while staying true to his identity?
- **Discussion Prompts:**
 - Discuss the pressures of assimilation and the importance of maintaining cultural identity.
 - How do peer relationships influence one's sense of belonging?
- **Activity:**
 - **Cultural Identity Shield:** Create a personal shield that represents your cultural identity, with symbols and words that reflect who you are.