

Novel Study: Stella Díaz Has Something to Say

In this unit, students will learn about elements of fictional narratives and narrative writing while reading the **award-winning** novel *Stella Díaz Has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez.

What's the story?

The novel explores many **relatable school-age experiences** such as bullying, divorce, not fitting in, intolerance, and being the new kid. It also highlights the **power of friendship and family support** as Stella, a Mexican-American third grader, finds the confidence to be her authentic self.

What will my student learn?

Your student will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students will learn to **identify internal character traits** and understand how character actions and key events contribute to the sequence of the novel. Students will improve their writing skills by **expanding simple sentences, identifying and writing dialogue**, and **using temporal words** in their writing. They will use a provided glossary to **determine the meaning of the Spanish words and phrases** used in this text. Daily reading and writing activities will support your student's successful completion of the culminating task for the unit: **planning, drafting, editing, revising, publishing, and presenting a fictional narrative** based on the novel.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is the title of the novel you are reading in class? (chapter 1)
Follow up: Who is the author and illustrator of the novel? (chapter 1)
2. Who is the main character in the novel? Who are the other characters in her family? (chapter 1)
Follow up: Where are Stella and her family from? (chapter 1)

3. Tell me how you define the Spanish words and phrases you find in the novel.
(chapter 1)
Follow up: Why do you think the author includes Spanish words in the novel?
(chapter 1)
4. What have you learned about internal character traits? Why do you think authors use character traits in their writing? (chapter 1)
Follow up: What internal character traits does Stella have? (chapters 1–3)
Follow up: Can you describe other characters in the novel using character traits?
(chapters 1–21)
5. What are some difficult situations Stella faces in the novel? (chapters 1–21)
Follow up: How does Stella overcome them? What characters in Stella's life are supportive and help her through difficult times? (chapters 1–21)
6. Can you relate to any of the characters in the novel? Why?