

## Reading Whole Books with ESOL Students

---

Deborah Lerne Goodman, Cambridge Community Learning Center  
First Literacy Boston, March 10, 2017

### Why read whole books?

- boosts vocabulary
- improves reading comprehension
- can practice CCR reading strategies
- confidence-building
- improves class cohesion when everyone shares a story
- makes planning easier because you don't have to think about what to read next
- hopefully instills a love of reading that can encourage extensive reading

**Home run book:** the book that hooks a reader

### Choosing a book is hardest part:

- obviously an appropriate reading level
- appropriate topic for adults
- big bias against dialect and "bad" grammar
- reasonable length
- having an audio book or movie is a bonus

### Books I've used:

\*\*\*\* Seedfolks, by Paul Fleischman

\*\*\*\* Two Old Women, by Velma Wallace

\*\*\* Barak Obama, by Beatrice Gormley

\*\*\*\* Fever 1793, by Laure Halse Anderson

\*\* Handle with Care, by Jodi Picoult (interesting, but at 500+ pages, too long)

### Pre-reading:

- Look at cover. What do you think it's about? What makes you think that?
- Look at back cover. Read. What did you learn?
- Spine
- Open up
- Title page
- Look at copyright

- Table of Contents: introduce the word chapter.
- KWL

### **Vocabulary**

- Students record targeted vocabulary on charts
- Collectively decide on number of syllables and which syllable is stressed

### **Four ways to read:**

- Silently
- Teacher reads aloud
- Students read aloud sequentially
- Chorally

### **College & Career Readiness:**

- summarizing
- focusing more on exactly where in the text information is given
- working more on making inferences
- analyze how different chapters/characters address similar theme

### **Activities**

- comprehension questions
- practice vocabulary
- dictation
- sequence activities in the story
- matching characters with facts about them
- graphic organizers regarding characters, plot, etc.
- on computer, do research to compare setting of book with Cambridge or your native country
- team comprehension challenge

### **Writing:**

- summarizing
- write to a character to give advice or offer support
- Maricela is now 30 and she writes to Penny to tell her what has happened with her life.
- role play, starting with a scene in the story and taking it further
- role play, two characters that may not actually meet in the story (
- book report

## Maricela, p. 66

- snuck in (verb) past tense of sneak in, to enter secretly without other people knowing
- burned at the stake – in the past, people who were suspected of being witches were tied to a pole (a stake) and set on fire



- wrestler (noun) someone who wrestles
- scum (noun) thick dirty substance on the surface of a liquid. Here it is slang: worthless, bad people
- abortion (noun) an operation to end a pregnancy
- miscarry (verb) to give birth to a baby too soon for the baby to live



- radish (noun) vegetable



- gopher (noun) animal that digs tunnels in the ground. It looks a lot like a squirrel without a bushy tail.
- puking, puke (verb) vomit



- blimp (noun) slang: a very fat person
- decorum (noun) behavior that is correct and respectful for a formal situation
- huge (adjective) very, very large



- Swiss chard (noun) vegetable
- daze (noun) a state in which you are unable to think clearly, spaced out

### Do you remember?

1. Where is Maricela from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How old is she? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is her problem? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Maricela get involved in the garden? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is Penny? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Maricela plant first? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did she plant next? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who did Maricela meet in the garden? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What were Maricela's feelings towards her baby? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion**

1. If you could talk to Maricela, what would you want to tell her?
2. Maricela believes other Latinos dislike Mexicans because they think they are undocumented. Have you experienced anything to suggest she is right or wrong about that?
3. How did Maricela's parents feel about her pregnancy? If Maricela were your daughter, how would you feel?
4. At the end of the chapter, Maricela stopped wishing her baby would die. Do you think she will continue to feel that way or go back to wishing she would miscarry?