

Doors to the Sky

To the Teacher

The materials that follow are samples from a set of worksheets developed by ESOL Program staff at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK), under a 2018 Literacy Lab Grant from First Literacy.¹

This set of worksheets is intended to extend and expand the learning of students reading Doors to the Sky, a book by Tana Reiff, an author who has written numerous series of high interest-low level chapter books for adult learners.

Doors to the Sky tells the story of Leena, an immigrant woman living in the United States, who longs to earn a high school diploma. Leena's husband, Omar, is a successful businessman who has had limited education, and holds very traditional views about the roles of women. As Leena describes, he "is in charge of my life" and "tells me what to do and when to do it". Leena dreams of going to Adult School, while Omar sees no value in her further education and forbids her enrollment.

Doors to the Sky is written at GLE 2.9. The book is 62 pages long, organized into 12 very short chapters. As written by Tana Reiff, the book was intended for pleasure reading and, therefore, did not include ancillary materials.

ATASK staff designed this set of worksheets for use in ESOL classes with Asian immigrant and refugee women who were domestic violence survivors. This target population had high beginning/low intermediate reading proficiency (SPL 3 on the TABE-English reading test). The materials are appropriate, however, for use with broad ESOL populations.

There are 47 worksheets in the set, with three to six accompanying each chapter of Doors to the Sky. The exercises:

- Support students in remembering the story-line from one class session to another;
- Provide students with practice in: purposeful, silent reading; using the context to puzzle out unfamiliar words; getting the main idea from text in which some words are unfamiliar; and, using the new vocabulary;
- Support students in relating the story to their own lives; and,
- Create a context for students to communicate their experiences and ideas during small group discussions and in writing.

For more information about this project or access to the entire set of worksheets, contact Holly Lockwood, the ESOL Program Coordinator at ATASK, at HLockwood@atask.org.

¹ Established about 25 years ago, ATASK provides comprehensive services to Asian and Asian-American survivors of domestic violence throughout Massachusetts.