

Immigration and Transformation

My Literary Metamorphosis (one-sheet)

By Reyna Grande

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Synopsis: A writer shares her personal story of immigrating to the US from Mexico, and her path to becoming a writer. The writer uses a butterfly analogy to describe her life — starting with stage one, the cocoon stage, growing up in poverty in Guerrero and her early interest in writing. Stage two, pupa stage, describes her college years at UCSC and pursuit of her craft. Stage three, the emerging stage, describes her career as a writer and the publication of her first novel. Stage four, taking flight, describes Reyna’s artistic aspirations to change the way people see the world.

Vocabulary

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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. metamorphosis | 6. semi-autobiographical |
| 2. marginalization | 7. emerge |
| 3. turmoil | 8. kaleidoscope |
| 4. chaos | 9. solitude |
| 5. nurture | |

Pre reading writing prompt

Write a “highlight reel” of your life. Include at least 3 moments, and describe each moment and why it’s special to you. These moments can be serious or funny or anywhere in between. Finally, give your highlight reel a title (i.e., *Kung Fu Panda*).

Pre reading discussion (class wide or in pairs)

“Don’t write about the things that you remember... write about the things you wish you could forget.” — Sandra Cisneros

What does Cisneros mean by this? What effect does it have on the reader when someone writes about a moment they wish to forget? What effect does it have on the writer, reliving a moment they wish to forget?

Post reading discussion questions (class wide or in pairs)

1. Do you think Grande would have pursued writing if she was born in a wealthy suburb?
2. What does Grande discover in college and how does that moment differ from her experience in the 5th grade?
3. What does Reyna mean when she compares her community of writers and thinkers to Kaleidoscope?
4. Do you think it’s possible to change the way another person sees the world?

Post reading writing reflection:

1. You wake up tomorrow and it is the year 2023. Take us through your day.