

TEACHER RESOURCES & STUDENT ACTIVITIES



How to Use Storyshares Teacher Resources & Student Activities

Pre-Reading

Share **background information**.

Introduce the **vocabulary** to the students. Discuss meanings. Click here for an **instructional routine** for vocabulary.

Reading

Share the written response to reading prompt ahead of time as the **focus for reading**.

Encourage students to **read a chapter** of the text independently or in pairs.

After Reading

Students can complete the **trivia worksheet** or make it into a game! Either way, make time to review answers.

Students complete the **written response to reading** prompt.

Background Information

Melanie needs a job. With her mom's medical bills stacking up, she knows she needs to do something to help them stay on their feet. The only place hiring is the very last place she would ever want to work: Mexicandy America. She just . . . wouldn't fit in there. She doesn't even speak Spanish! But at the end of the day, it's her only option.

Visual Vocabulary

This vocabulary guide was created with English language learners in mind. This table flags Tier 2 vocabulary words in every chapter. This guide includes the definitions in context, as well as images and examples from the text.

Trivia Questions




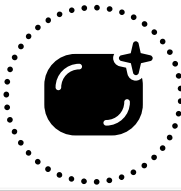
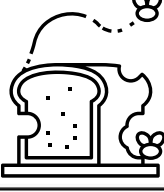



This is a ready-made student worksheet that can be given as a check for understanding after students have finished the book. You can also gamify the trivia questions, making this a small group activity. **Answers: 1. A; 2. D; 3. D; 4. B**



Click [here](#) for reading comprehension worksheets and graphic organizers.



Refried Dreams by Sarah Haas

Word	Definition	Image	Example
employment (noun)	work done for pay; a job		Of course, the employment application for Koala Gelato just smelled dry and inky. (ch 1)
squint (verb)	to partly close the eyelids		"Did you just smell that application?" Clara asked, squinting one eye in disdain. (ch 1)
elegant (adjective)	having very good taste or dignified / impressive		But now, elegant Clara thought I was weird for smelling paper. (ch 1)
sleek (adjective)	smooth, shiny, or new		I was determined that my first job would be at this sleek gelato shop. (ch 1)
stale (adjective)	no longer fresh or pleasant to smell		My future smelled as stale as cold fries and old salsa. (ch 2)
defeat (noun)	loss; the opposite of a win		I couldn't accept defeat . (ch 2)
expense (noun)	something that costs money		We'd been keeping up with living expenses before the surgery but just barely. (ch 3)
mutter (verb)	to speak in a low tone that is hard to understand		"Thanks so much. We'll give you a call," he muttered . (ch 4)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice

Read the questions carefully. Choose the answer that fits the question best.

1. What does Melanie's interaction with Clara reveal about her character?

- A. Melanie wants approval from Clara.
- B. Melanie sees Clara as a mentor who supports her.
- C. Melanie is confident in her abilities.
- D. Melanie doesn't care about Clara's opinion of her.

2. Why does Melanie initially hesitate to accept the job offer from Clara?

- A. She already committed to staying at Mexicandy America.
- B. She fears she won't fit in at Koala Gelato.
- C. She thinks she can't handle the position.
- D. Her loyalty lies with her current coworkers and friends.

3. How does Melanie decide between staying at Mexicandy America or moving to Koala Gelato?

- A. She compares the food at both places.
- B. Raul convinces her to stay.
- C. She chooses based on what she's paid.
- D. She chooses family and personal growth over money.

4. How does the scent of churros impact Melanie's decision-making?

- A. It represents Melanie's failure to make something impactful.
- B. It represents the success and joy in her current job.
- C. It shows that Koala Gelato isn't as good.
- D. It keeps customers from purchasing gelato, affecting sales.

Written Response to Reading

What lesson does the main character learn by the end of the book? (*Melanie learns that...*)
