

I am proud to be a member of two cultures. Even though I am only ten years old, I have lived in two countries and in two cultures. I have lived in both Mexico and the United States.

I was born in the state of Michoacán. I was born in a small town called Quinceo. Life there was simple and peaceful. There was a small church where we would go to hear mass on Sundays. There was a corral where we would go and watch rodeos. After school, my friends and I would go for a swim in a creek. My mom did not work; she stayed at home taking care of our family. Life in Quinceo was nice, but money was sometimes not enough to support us.

In 1996, the day came when my dad decided to bring us to the United States. Leaving my town was hard, but it was important that my family stay together. When I left Mexico, I had a lot of special friends and nice teachers.

When I first came to the United States, I started at a new school in Chicago. I found care and company at the school, among Hispanic people, my friends, and my teacher. She helped me all the time.

My education now is different from the one in Mexico. Here, I am studying in two languages. I feel very happy because I am able to communicate in two languages. In my case, speaking Spanish is an indication of my Mexican heritage. Speaking English is a symbol of my triumph and the struggles that I have as an immigrant in this country. Now that I have been here three years, I am proud to offer my help and support to people who need it.

I urge those who come from Mexico and other countries to learn English and to continue speaking their native language, too. It will help them reach out to others.

Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose - Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Area 7 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. How does the writer feel about the United States?

- a. He likes it.
- b. He does not like it.
- c. He is not sure.
- d. He does not know it well.

3. How does the writer feel about Mexico?

- a. He does not remember it.
- b. He is proud of his heritage.
- c. He has moved to the United States.
- d. He has many friends there.

2. Why did the writer write this passage?

- a. to tell people about Mexico
- b. to help people understand immigrants
- c. to explain why he speaks English
- d. to tell why he left Mexico

4. What does the writer want people to do?

- a. learn other languages
- b. understand each other
- c. move to other countries
- d. become teachers

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What do you think this writer wants you to learn from this passage?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

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| Item | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Answer | a | b | b | b |

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
That you can be from one country and be proud of that and your new country.