



LITERACY



MINDSET

How can we overcome difficulties?

Use this essential question to guide student learning with class discussion and inquiry activities.

1. UNDERSTAND PLOT (30 MINUTES)

Helping students understand elements of plot will strengthen their reading skills when they learn to read independently. Discuss the definition of *plot* with students. For this activity, students will focus on the beginning of the story.

Have the students fold a blank piece of paper into three sections. In the first box, have the students draw the main character. In the second box, have them draw a picture of the setting. In the third box, have the students draw a picture of a problem.

Support: Provide students with sentences to describe the three plot points. Have them draw their pictures to match these sentences.

2. LISTEN CAREFULLY! (30 MINUTES)

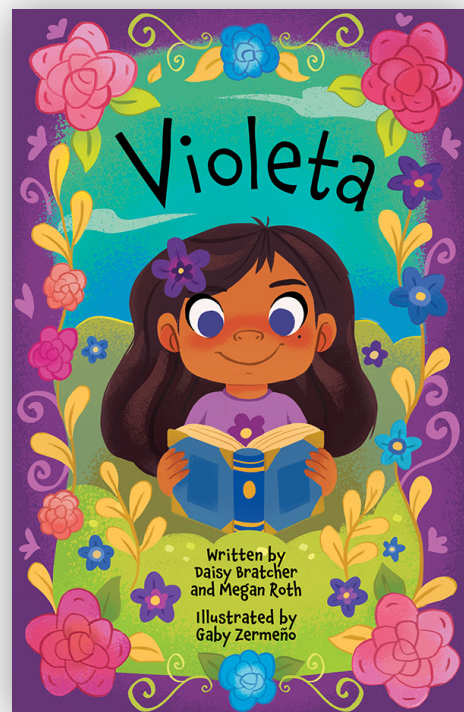
Before beginning this activity, discuss the word challenges. What does it mean to have a challenge at home? What does it mean to have a challenge at school? Using a **T-Chart**, label one column *Challenges* and the other column *Solution Strategies*. As students share challenges, record them under the proper column and brainstorm solution strategies in the other column.

Explain that it is important to listen attentively in order to understand how to respond. Guide students in understanding the importance of collaborative thinking, taking turns, not interrupting, etc. Encourage students to be aware of other students who may be hesitant to participate because they fear being made fun of.

Have students turn and talk to a partner about how they would have helped Violeta. What advice would they have given her? What advice can they give classmates who may fear speaking in class? For example, students could give advice that laughing can be a way that students can help gain courage.

PRINTABLES

- T-Chart <https://bit.ly/3w2ooV5>
- Gráfica T <https://bit.ly/3wQCauK>



*Use the bilingual book **Violeta** to help support Spanish ELL students with these activities.*

ELL SUPPORT



Encourage students to use the pictures in the book to help them recall plot details and other story elements.

3. EXPRESS AN OPINION (30 MINUTES)

Explain to students that an opinion is a thought or feeling about something. Our opinions are not always shared by others, but we can support our opinions by providing reasons for them.

Have students fill in the following sentence frames:

- At the beginning of the story, Violeta was _____ because _____.
- I think Violeta was very _____ at the end of the story because _____.

(Example: I think Violeta was very *brave* because she faced her *fears*.)

Discuss responses as a class, talking about why students may have different opinions and how they support their opinions.

Support: Provide students with this list of **Character Traits**. Students may refer to this list when thinking of descriptors for Violeta (or any future characters)!

PRINTABLE Scholastic | Character Traits <https://bit.ly/3pR7qHk>

4. WRITE ABOUT A CHALLENGE (45 MINUTES)

It is important for students to learn from different events in their lives.

Ask students to think about a time when they were able to resolve a problem that was difficult for them. Have them pair up with a partner and talk about this event. Then, guide students in using the **Basic Paragraph Template** to write about this event.

- Support:** Provide sentence starters to help students write their paragraphs. Try these sentence starters:
- I had a difficult time with . . .
 - It was difficult because . . .
 - To solve my problem, I . . .

PRINTABLES

- Basic Paragraph Template <https://bit.ly/3oc390t>
- Plantilla de párrafo básico <https://bit.ly/3qlak7q>

5. EXPLORE EMPATHY (30 MINUTES)

One way to help students relate to *Violeta* is to help them recognize the importance of the story's ending. For example, Violeta's example can help shy students learn that it is possible to find the courage they need to make their voices heard.

Have students draw a picture to show what happened at the end of the story. Then, have them write a sentence explaining how they would feel if they gained courage like Violeta did.



ELL SUPPORT

While reading the book, pause regularly to ask comprehension check questions via circling. Review the details of the story using questions that are not open-ended.


Name _____	Date _____
Basic Paragraph Template	
Organize your paragraph by completing the outline.	
Topic Sentence: _____	

First, _____	

Also, _____	

Finally, _____	

In conclusion, _____	

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Basic Paragraph Template