

Where the Flame Trees Bloom
Theme 4
5th Grade Challenge Reading

Name _____

Date _____

Before Reading

This book is a selection of personal narratives. The author recalls memorable people and experiences from her childhood in Cuba. If you were writing a book such as this, what events of people would you want to include? Begin a list of topics for your own personal narrative.



Vocabulary:

Weathered: changed because of exposure to wind, rain, or sun.

Abundant: plentiful

Embellished: added ornamental or fictitious detail

Pretext: professed purpose; excuse

Resilient: capable of returning to an original shape or position

Predicament: difficult or embarrassing situation

Feigned: pretended

Revelers: partiers; merrymakers

The author of this book uses many similes to make her language come alive. Select 3 vocabulary words and use them in a sentence with a simile. Be sure the meaning of the vocabulary word is clearly conveyed:

Example:

Her **feigned** joy was like a carbon copy of sincere emotion.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

During Reading:



In each of these stories, the author has a “big idea” or generalization she wants the reader to understand. For example in “The Teacher”, Alma Flor Ada recalls how her grandmother taught her pupils that each one has a responsibility for others. As you read each story, try to determine the “big idea”.

Story title	The Big Idea
The Teacher	Each one of us has a responsibility for others.
Choices	
The Surveyor	
Lightening	
Samone	
The Legend	
Canelo	
The Rag Dolls	
Mathematics	
The Ice Cream Man	
The Feast of San Juan	

Select one of the stories. Practice reading it aloud with expression and feeling. You can find help with

Spanish pronunciations at

<http://www.lingolex.com/pronounce/>

Now make arrangements with your teacher to read the selection to your class or a small group.

