



level 1

LITERATURE DISCOVERY GUIDE

My Name Is María Isabela

by Alma Flor Ada



blackbird & company

EDUCATIONAL PRESS

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Great stories are invaluable and can profoundly impact our lives. Reading them teaches us to observe and evaluate the real world, empowering us to make decisions regarding our own values and behavior. Reading affects us on a level that is not overtly instructive but experiential in nature. A great story may illustrate broad values and grand ideals, inspire us to embrace heroism, fight injustice, gain wisdom, love our neighbor, or simply encourage us to revel in nature's beauty.

Blackbird & Company literature discovery guides have been developed with the fundamental belief that the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual components of a story are inseparable. Stimulating the heart, mind, and soul is essential to a full literary experience. When we recognize and embrace the truth that a great multitude of language arts standards are met while digging into literature, basing the language arts program on books makes sense.

Transforming the language arts program by establishing a tradition of literary exploration has profound results. Blackbird & Company literature discovery guides enable students to independently analyze and respond to great stories while freeing up the teacher's schedule to read and discover alongside their students. Empowering teachers to become mentors releases them from the confines of a tedious, and often frustrating, language arts schedule and affords golden opportunities to nurture the child's heart and mind.

As students embark on the adventure of studying literature, our objective is threefold:

- Teach readers to observe and **evaluate** what they read
- Give readers the opportunity to **respond** with their own ideas through the process of writing
- Encourage readers to **apply** what they learn to their life and the world around them

Great stories—whether written in prose, crafted in verse, sculpted in stone, or painted in oil—from the classic to the modern, are waiting with open arms, to instruct, inspire and enlighten.

Take flight!

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	TEACHER COMMENTS	GRADE
Section 1			
<input type="checkbox"/> Read: Chs. 1-3	___ /4		<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> 20 </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Characters	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Setting	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Plot	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquire	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recollect	___ /3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing	___ /4		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	___ /3		
Section 2			
<input type="checkbox"/> Read: Chs. 4-5	___ /4		<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> 20 </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Characters	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Setting	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Plot	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquire	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recollect	___ /3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing	___ /4		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	___ /3		
Section 3			
<input type="checkbox"/> Read: Chs. 6-7	___ /4		<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> 20 </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Characters	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Setting	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Plot	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquire	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recollect	___ /3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing	___ /4		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	___ /3		
Section 4			
<input type="checkbox"/> Read: Chs. 8-10	___ /4		<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> 20 </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Characters	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Setting	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Plot	___ /1		
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquire	___ /2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recollect	___ /3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing	___ /4		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	___ /3		
Section 5			
<input type="checkbox"/> Glean	___ /20		<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> 20 </div>
			<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> 100 </div>

FINAL GRADE

Section 1

Read > Chapters 1-3

Characters

As you read, note interesting, important and new things you learn about the characters. Describe such things as their personality and appearance, including details about the way they act, think and feel.

María Isabel

Antonio

The Teacher

Vocabulary

Write in the number of the correct definition for each word. Use a dictionary if you need help.

_____ gulp	1. to stick up or out
_____ secure	2. to swallow quickly
_____ jut	3. to feel safe and sound
_____ eager	4. having a sharp, high sound
_____ shrill	5. to flow away from the shore
_____ ebb	6. enthusiastic for something

Fill in each blank with the best word from the vocabulary list above.

1. Wesley was _____ for the camping trip with his Boy Scout troop to begin.
2. The seagulls made a _____ sound when the dog chased them off the beach.
3. After hours in a small row boat, Jenna felt _____ standing dry land.
4. The mountains seemed to _____ out of the vast desert scenery.
5. The _____ and flow of the ocean tide is very calming.
5. Jack had to _____ down his chocolate milk so he wouldn't be late for practice.

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using complete sentences. You may refer to both the book and your journal notes.

1. What does María Isabel's mother say to her when she leaves for school?

2. Who made María Isabel's favorite yellow dress?

3. Why does the teacher decide to call María, Mary?

4. Who is María Isabel named after?

5. In what country did María Isabel start school?

6. What is the girl's name who comes and takes María Isabel by the hand?

7. What is the one thing María Isabel wishes her teacher would stop doing?

Discussion Questions

Think about and discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think María Isabel changed her mind about her new backpack? Have you ever been nervous to start school? Why?
2. Have you ever tripped and fallen in a new set of clothes? How did you feel when it happened?
3. Are you named after a family member? If you are, who is it? Does your name have a special meaning in your family?
4. What do you think María Isabel is thinking when she opens her new book and sees the name Mary Lopez written in it? How would you feel? Do you think it was right for the teacher to change María Isabel's name?
5. María Isabel's family cherishes a photograph of their grandmother. Why do you think that photo is important to them? Does your family have a photo of a relative that's very important to them? Why is it important?
6. Why does grandmother Chabela put money in a cookie jar? Has anybody ever given you money? What did you use it for?
7. Why do you think María Isabel's grandmother says to her, "This is so you can study someday and not spend your whole life in a kitchen."? What are some reasons her grandmother might have said this?