First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Before We Were Free

Segment 1 Student Packet

Fear and the Discovery of Power

Chapters 1 through 4 Grade 6

Read the assigned chapters in your own copy of Julia Alvarez’s novel. This packet develops literary analysis alongside inquiry into geography, power, and human rights. Complete four days of evidence based discussion and writing, then a fifth day assessment.

The novel is required and is not included. Use chapter references and page numbers from your edition. These activities are original companion materials.

Learning goals

I can make an inference, explain a character’s response, develop a theme, and support my reasoning with accurate evidence. I can distinguish a fictional account from historical evidence.

Reading schedule

Day 1 Chapter 1 Family and belonging

Day 2 Chapter 2 Authority and fear

Day 3 Chapters 3 and 4 Knowledge and perspective

Day 4 Chapters 1 through 4 Limits on freedom

Day 5 Assessment of the entire segment

RACE means Restate the question, Answer with a claim, Cite evidence, and Explain how the evidence supports the claim.

Evidence expectations

Use two relevant details for each Quick Write. Explain both details. Paraphrases must be accurate. Do not invent quotations. Record a chapter and page for each detail.

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Day 1 Family and belonging

Reading Chapter 1

Standards RL.CR.6.1 and RL.IT.6.3

Do Now

How can a change in a familiar place affect a person’s sense of belonging?

Text investigation

Choose a detail about family or school. Explain what it reveals about Anita’s expectations.

First evidence with chapter and page

Second evidence with chapter and page

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Day 1 Writing and reflection

Quick Write

Explain how the opening establishes a difference between Anita's familiar world and the changes around her. Use two details. Explain how each detail supports your claim.

Exit Ticket

Which opening detail might become important later and why?

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