

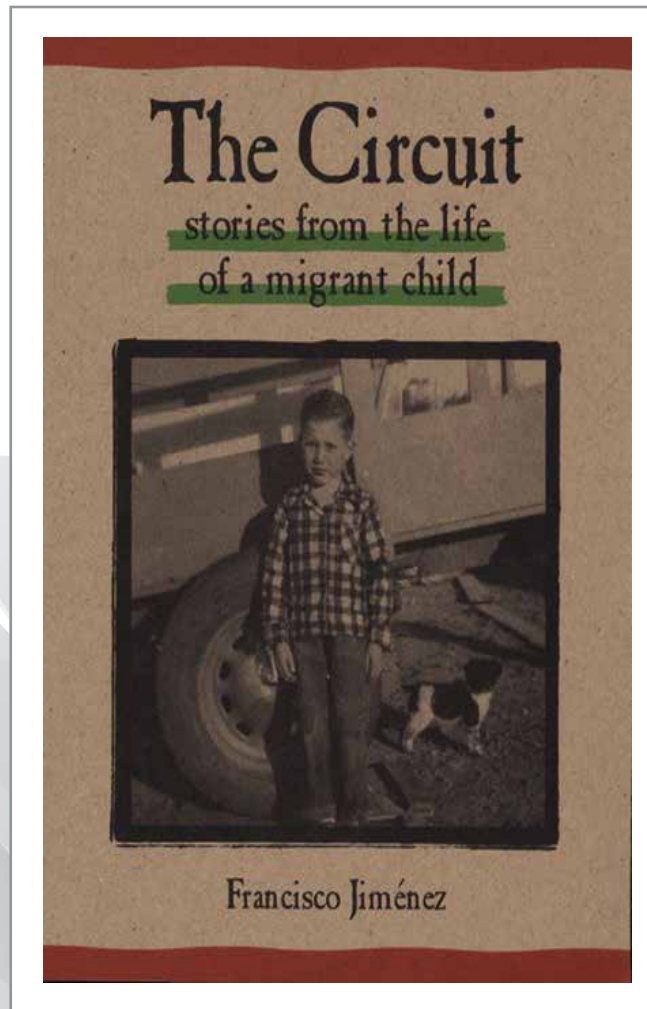


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

The Circuit

Francisco Jimenez



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Circuit

Francisco Jimenez

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Getting the “Lay of the Land”

Directions: Prepare for reading by answering the following short-answer questions.

1. Who is the author?

2. What does the title suggest to you about the book?

3. When was the book first copyrighted?

4. How many pages are there in the book?

5. Thumb through the opening pages of the book, prior to the start of the first chapter. What elements tell you that the book is largely autobiographical?

6. What does the cover suggest to you about the book?

Name _____

Vocabulary Wheel

leech evoked inalienable <i>* denotes spelling in text</i>	swaggered barracks deriving	trough sulphur*	sheepishly endowed
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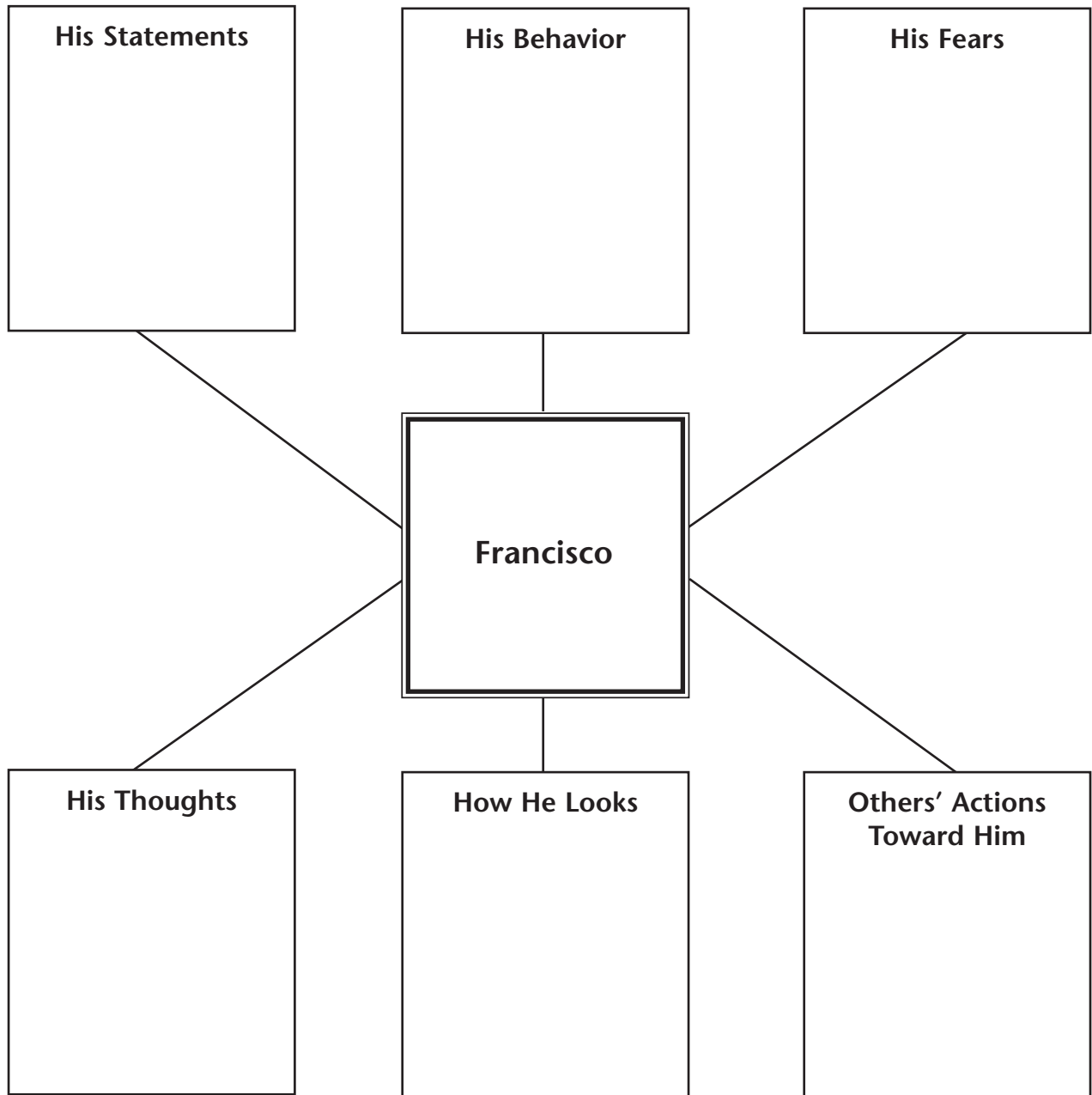
Directions: Separate into groups of three or four students. Use the circle below to make a spinner. For each vocabulary word, group members spin the spinner and follow the instructions. Be sure each group member spins at least once for each vocabulary word. If two group members spin and land on the same instructions (e.g., two students spin and land on "Define"), spin again.



Name _____

Character Web

Directions: Use the chart below to examine events and facts from *The Circuit*. Be as detailed as possible, and cite at least two pieces of evidence from the book for each box.



Name _____

A. Multiple Choice: Choose the BEST answer to each question.

- _____ 1. What is Francisco’s favorite activity at their home in Mexico?
- a. going to Mass
 - b. playing soccer
 - c. looking for eggs
 - d. listening to stories
- _____ 2. How does the family get past the guards at the border?
- a. They bribe the guards.
 - b. They sneak by the guards, one by one.
 - c. They crawl beneath a barbed wire fence at night.
 - d. A woman smuggles them across the border when night falls.
- _____ 3. What upsets Papá when they reach the labor camp?
- a. They have no place to sleep.
 - b. There will not be any work for two weeks.
 - c. They are penniless and can’t afford to buy food.
 - d. The foreman tells him that he should return to Mexico.
- _____ 4. How do the boys know they are in California?
- a. It is sunny all the time.
 - b. The foreman tells them.
 - c. Everyone speaks English.
 - d. The conductor drops a bag of food from the train.

B. Short Answer: Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 5. Why is Francisco unhappy that he must take care of Trampita?
- 6. Do you think Francisco takes good care of Trampita? Why or why not?
- 7. Why is Papá angry with Francisco when he returns to the car at the day’s end?
- 8. Why is Francisco’s first day at school difficult?
- 9. What interests and distracts Francisco in the classroom?
- 10. Why do Curtis and Francisco fight?
- 11. Why does Miss Scalapino reward Francisco with a blue ribbon?
- 12. How does Francisco reconcile with Curtis?