

The Coquíes Still Sing: A Story of Home, Hope, and Rebuilding
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3rd

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Preview the author’s note on the last page with students to build background knowledge. Use this as an opportunity to explain to your class that this story was inspired by a true event.
- Ask: When you are feeling down, how do you help yourself stay positive? (Optional: brainstorm a list on chart paper).
- Frontload Spanish terms: *hola, coquí, abuela, pueblo, papi* (see Glossary in the back of the book)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

*Follow each question with “*What details from the story make you say that?*”

- How is Elena’s community about to change?
- How do you think Elena is feeling when she sees the mango trees?
- In what ways is Elena **restoring** her community?
- Why does the garden become the “gathering place”?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Re-read this line from the story: *The coquíes song sounds like home, even though home has forever changed.* How has home changed for Elena and her family? How has it stayed the same?
- **Extension:** In the back of the book, the author lists a few “Call to Action” resources. Tell your students to choose a topic or issue that they are passionate about helping. In pairs or groups, have students create their own poster and/or advertisement for ways to help their cause. Students can write, illustrate, and/or present their ideas to their peers.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.