

Warm-Up

Characters, Conflict, and Idioms in “Daughter of Invention” by Julia Alvarez



Lesson Question



Lesson Goals

Read “  of Invention” from *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez.

**Examine** the way  is used in a story.

**Interpret** and determine the meaning of  by looking at context.

**Analyze** characters based on how they  and deal with .

# Characters, Conflict, and Idioms in “Daughter of Invention” by Julia Alvarez

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2K

## Words to Know

Fill in this table as you work through the lesson. You may use the glossary to help you.

conflict	a <input type="text"/> between opposing forces or characters
interact	to be <input type="text"/> with and have an effect on something or someone else
interpret	to tell the <input type="text"/> of
characterization	the way an author presents a <input type="text"/> character to the reader
idiom	a <input type="text"/> that cannot be taken literally and must be understood as a whole



### Adjusting to a New Culture

Cultural  can prove challenging when a person moves from one place to another. People experience differences in:

- language.
- .
- beliefs.
- .

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**Recognizing Idioms**

An idiom is a  that is familiar to a group of people.

Idioms are not meant to be taken .

Did you get up on the wrong side of the bed?	It's raining cats and dogs.	Idioms are a piece of cake.
This idiom means: Did you get up in a bad <input type="text"/> ?	This idiom means: It's raining <input type="text"/> .	Something that is a piece of cake is really <input type="text"/> .

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**Interpreting Idioms**

To interpret an idiom used in a text, consider the  in which it is used.

Ask yourself:

1.  is using the idiom?
2. How is the idiom being used?
3. What  offer clues?

*Underline the idioms in the passage.*

I can't believe I made the track team. After all, I have never been very athletic. In fact, my parents call me a couch potato. My coach, Mrs. Lopez, is very supportive and reminds me that if I work very hard I will be running at breakneck speed in no time.

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**How does Julia Alvarez reveal characters and conflict through language?**

All around the world, people speak a wide range of , and even within the same language, there are many  in the way that language is used and expressions that people say, including .

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**Understanding Characters and Conflicts**

A story revolves around the  faced by characters.

When reading a story, ask:

- are the characters?
- What  do the characters face?

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**Examining Language to Understand Characters**

The  used by characters in a story helps readers

the characters and the conflicts they face.

Look for variations in:

- pronunciation.
- .
- grammar.
- .

*Underline the idiom in the passage.*

“Ay, Yoyo, you are going to be the one to bring our name to the headlights in this country! That is a beautiful, beautiful speech I want for your father to hear it before he goes to sleep. Then I will type it for you, all right?”

–“*Daughter of Invention,*”  
Julia Alvarez

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**Analyzing What Characters’ Language Reveals**

The way a character  reveals:

- who the character is.
- how the character  to others.
- how the character is .
- possible conflicts the character may face.

*Underline the idiom the mother misuses.*

“Sticks and stones don't break bones,” she chanted. Yoyo could tell, though, by the look on her face, it was as if one of those stones the kids had aimed at her daughters had hit her.

–“*Daughter of Invention*,”  
Julia Alvarez

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**Exploring Conflict**

A conflict is an  or challenge that a character attempts to overcome. There are different types of conflict.

**Self** A character is in conflict .

**Others** A character is in conflict with one or more  in the story.

**Society** A character is in conflict with the  in which he or she lives.

**Nature** A character is in conflict with the .

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**Connecting Language to Characters and Conflicts**

- Who are the  ?
- What  do the characters face?

*Underline what creates conflict for the character in the passage below. Underline what type of conflict the character experiences as a result.*

In ninth grade, Yoyo was chosen by her English teacher, Sister Mary Joseph, to deliver the Teacher's Day address at the school assembly. . . .

. . . She still had a slight accent, and she did not like to speak in public, subjecting herself to her classmates' ridicule.

–“Daughter of Invention,”

Julia Alvarez

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**Julia Alvarez (b. 1950)**

- Was born in  in 1950
- Moved to the  when she was three months old
- Grew up in the Dominican Republic when it was ruled by an oppressive
- with her family to the United States in 1960
- Writes poetry, fiction, and essays

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1

**How does Julia Alvarez reveal characters and conflict through language?**

In Alvarez’s story, the way the characters respond to  they face comes out through the way they  and adjust to new language.

2

**Characterization**

is the way an author presents and develops characters in a story.

Characterization can be revealed through:

- the way characters are .
- the  in which characters interact.
- between characters.
- conflicts within a character and between other characters.

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**Observing Characterization**

To analyze characterization, observe the ways characters  and speak.

Consider:

- what the  of conflict is.
- how the characters'  and words show their feelings.
- how the characters' language represents their cultural .

*Underline the characters' actions.*

The expression on his face shocked both mother and daughter. Carlos's toothless mouth had collapsed into a dark zero. His eyes bored into Yoyo, then shifted to Laura. In barely audible Spanish, as if secret microphones or informers were all about, he whispered to his wife, “You will permit her to read *that*?”

Laura's eyebrows shot up, her mouth fell open. . . . “What is wrong with her speech?” Laura questioned him.

–“*Daughter of Invention*,”  
Julia Alvarez

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**Characterization and Culture**

Characterization can  ideas about cultural .

**Father**

The father represents the values of the

.

“That is insubordinate. It is improper. It is disrespecting of her teachers—” . . . .  
Finally, he shouted at Yoyo, “As your father, I forbid you to make that eh-speech!”

**Mother**

The mother represents the values of

the .

“This is America, Papi, America! You are not in a savage country anymore!”



# Summary

## Characters, Conflict, and Idioms in “Daughter of Invention” by Julia Alvarez



### Lesson Question

How does Julia Alvarez reveal characters and conflict through language?



**Answer:**

*Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.*