

The Color of My Words

_____ 's

Journal

Started on: _____ Completed on: _____

THE EXCHANGE

Can words
change people?
How?

Plan Your Schedule

My group members are: _____

We plan to read *The Color of My Words* and meet on these dates:

Chapters	Date We Will Finish Reading	Date We Will Discuss
Wash Day and Words		
The Gri Gri Tree		
Merengue Dream		
My Brother's Friend		
One Sunday		
The Colors of Power		
The Color of My Words		



Q Our Exchange Ideas meeting will be on this date: _____.

Prepare to Read

Think About What You Know

Think about what you did this week. How did you communicate with others?
Describe three ways you used words.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Preview and Predict

- Look at the front cover.
- Read the summary on the back cover.
- Read The Exchange question on the title page.
- Read page 3 and the “Wash Day” poem on pages 4–5.

1. In this story, Ana Rosa tells about her own life. How do you know?

2. Page through the book. Read the chapter titles and the first verse of each poem. What do you think you’ll learn about Ana Rosa?

Use a Reading Strategy

Use a Character Description Chart

As you read *The Color of My Words*, use a Character Description Chart to show what the characters say and do, and what this tells you about them.

Character	What the Character Does	What This Shows About the Character
Ana Rosa pages 4–21		
Mami pages 22–38		
Papi pages 39–51		
Angel pages 52–66		
Ana Rosa pages 67–79		
Guario pages 80–107		
Ana Rosa’s Friends and Family pages 108–118		

Respond to Wash Day and Words

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapters. Fill in the Character Description Chart on **Journal page 4**.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

- 1. Personal Response** Ana Rosa and Guario both had dreams for the future. What is a dream or goal that you have for the future? What will you do to get that dream?

- 2. Author's Style** The author began each chapter with one of Ana Rosa's poems. Why do you think she did this?

- 3. Plot** Ana Rosa had a problem—she needed paper. She got paper, but that created another problem. What was the second problem? Did she solve it? What would you have done?

Respond to The Gri Gri Tree

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapter. Fill in the Character Description Chart on Journal page 4.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

- 1. Personal Response** Mami encouraged Ana Rosa to write. Who in your life encourages you? What do they encourage you to do? Why?

- 2. Setting** Why was the gri gri tree so important to Ana Rosa? Do you have a special place? What is it?

- 3. Confirm Word Meaning** Reread page 31. Look at the word *debate*. A debate is when people have a discussion or an argument about something. Describe two things you can do to confirm the word's meaning.

Respond to Merengue Dream

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapter. Fill in the Character Description Chart on Journal page 4.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

- 1. Personal Response** Papi taught Ana Rosa to dance. Tell about something a friend or family member taught you to do. Was it easy or hard to learn? Explain.

- 2. Metaphor** A metaphor makes a comparison by saying one thing *is* another thing. When Ana Rosa said, “I was a balloon finally free of its string,” what two things was she comparing? Find other metaphors in the chapter and tell what they compare.

- 3. Character** Ana Rosa did not like everything about Papi’s character. What do you think Papi would have been like if Ana Rosa could have changed him?

Respond to My Brother's Friend

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapter. Fill in the Character Description Chart on Journal page 4.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

1. **Personal Response** Guarío helped Ana Rosa feel better when she learned that Angel liked Angela. Have you ever helped someone feel better? What was the problem? How did you help?

2. **Similes** A simile is a comparison with *like* or *as*. What are your favorite similes in “My Brother’s Friend”? Tell what two things are being compared.

3. **Mood** On pages 61–63, the mood of the chapter changed from happy to sad. Tell why. Find some examples of words the author used to show the happy and sad moods.

Respond to “One Sunday”

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapter. Fill in the Character Description Chart on **Journal page 4**.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

- 1. Personal Response** Ana Rosa was confused and upset when she learned that Papi was not her father. How would you feel? Tell why.

- 2. Paraphrase** After finding out about her father, Ana Rosa said, “I would never be the same Ana Rosa Hernandez again.” Use your own words to tell what she meant.

- 3. Inference** Ana Rosa said that being a writer gave her power. What kind of power did it give her? Explain your answer.

Respond to The Colors of Power

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapter. Fill in the Character Description Chart on Journal page 4.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

- 1. Personal Response** Guarío was named after a Taíno fighter. Tell about your name or names in your family. Were you named after another person? What is a name you would pick for yourself? Why?

- 2. Conflict** Reread page 97. What did Guarío mean when he said, “words aren’t enough”? Why weren’t words enough to help the family and neighbors?

- 3. Character** Why was Guarío a good leader? What qualities do leaders have?

Respond to The Color of My Words

Character Description Chart

Review what happened in the chapter. Fill in the Character Description Chart on Journal page 4.

Think It Over

Think about what you read and answer these questions.

- 1. Personal Response** Angel stayed with Ana Rosa at the gri gri tree to make her feel better. Tell about a time a friend or family member made you feel better. What did they do or say to help you?

- 2. Conclusions** Why did Ana Rosa feel it was important for people to remember Guarío? Explain your answer.

- 3. Opinion** What do you think Ana Rosa will do in her future? Do you think she will write books? Explain what you think she will do with her life.
