

Areli Is a Dreamer
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3rd

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

- Begin by discussing what it means to move to a new place. Share your own story or a hypothetical scenario about moving from one country to another. Ask: What would you pack if you had to move to another country? What would you miss the most about your current home?
- Talk about themes like hope, resilience, and the challenges of adapting to a new culture. Ask students why these themes might be important in a story about a young girl moving to a new country.

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

- How do you think Areli felt when she first arrived in New York and couldn't understand the language well?
- Can you think of a time when you felt like an outsider or very different from others?
- Areli misses her grandmother's house in Mexico. What are some things you love about your home or culture?
- What are some ways Areli shows strength and courage in the story?
- How can we help people feel safe and accepted in our community, just like Areli wanted to feel?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: What does Areli's story teach us about dreams and challenges?
- Encourage students to discuss how Areli's dreams change throughout the book and how she deals with the challenges she faces. This helps students understand the concept of resilience and adaptation.
- At the end of the book, Areli feels more connected to her new life and optimistic about her future. Have students write a letter to their future selves, describing their current dreams and what steps they think they need to take to achieve them. For younger students, encourage them to draw a picture of their dream or something they love about their "home," just like Areli finds beauty in her new surroundings despite the challenges.

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.