

Name: XXXXXX Date: _____ Period: 3rd

Graphic Novel 2

Title: *Mexikid*

Author: *Pedro Martin*

Question	Response
Who are <u>you</u>? List 5-7 aspects that make up your identity (ex: culture, values, interests, roles, experiences). Then identify 5-7 aspects of the main character's identity. Use evidence from both the text and illustrations. Are you more similar or different? Explain.	I am a sister to a mischievous younger sister, I live with 4 dogs and 2 frogs, I like the mangas <i>Gokurakugai</i> and <i>Phantom Busters</i> along with <i>Uzumaki</i> and <i>Jujutsu Kaisen</i>, along with <i>The Summer Hikaru Died</i> and <i>Gachiakuta</i>. I'm an artist and heavy overthinker, and I don't like talking much unless I'm around people I really like. I work hard to maintain good grades and relationships with people, but I do procrastinate chronically. I really love and have a passion for music, and I am hispanic with spanish-speaking grandparents. Peter/Pedro loves superheroes and action figures even if he's made fun of for it. In the book, he looks for action figures in every store and is devastated when his most valued one is taken from him. He escapes serious conversations and negative things with TV shows, as shown in the book when he says "It was the perfect show to have on when adults were talking about seemingly serious matters. All the clapping and catchphrases nicely drowned out almost all the bad news you might overhear." Pedro is also adventurous and creative; he learns from his peers and if he doesn't agree with them he goes off of his own ideas. Pedro and I are most likely more similar than different because I can relate to his extreme empathy and love for interests that may be new or weird to others. Pedro is most definitely more Mexican than I am, and his family traditions and habits are definitely different from mine. We are also different because I have a much smaller family than Pedro and my family usually tends to fly places rather than drive for an extreme amount of time. However, I can relate to his character in many ways which could possibly make us more similar than different.

What emotions did you experience while reading? Analyze what caused those reactions citing specific images, dialogue, or events, and explain why they were impactful.	While reading this novel, I experienced happiness, sadness, nostalgia, and "saddersweetness (as described by the character)." I also related to some parts and was intrigued to learn about Mexican culture and the experiences of the characters. I was happy when the younger kids got sugary things and the illustrations were bright and colorful; and I was sad when I related to Pedro's empathy for the deer. These were impactful because the pretty, joyful colors demonstrate the happiness and joy kids experience while getting to have a sweet treat, and Pedro's empathy for the deer shows how compassionate he is and how he wants to step up and be a hero. I was solemn and "saddersweet" when I saw the illustration of Abuelita's bones and read how Pedro was describing the moment because it highlights the mourning of a kind and special woman, but also the kindness of the act to dig her back up. I became happy again when Pedro's abuelito honored him as a "deer surgeon." Getting to see the huge family interact and eat together intrigued me because my family isn't nearly as big, Pedro's family has 8 more people than mine!
Describe a time you felt like you did not belong. How does this connect to a moment in your novel where the character experiences belonging or exclusion? How do your experiences shape the way you interpret the character's situation?	Around the middle-beginning of this school year, some drama happened between two of my friends and caused the friend group we had (I loved them dearly, they made me want to come to school) to split up and not sit together at lunch anymore (However, I'm still good friends with all 6 people). When they weren't sitting at our usual table waiting for me, I didn't really know where to go, especially if my other friends were absent. I felt lost and like I didn't belong in a group if it wasn't that one. I still had people to go to and hang out with at lunch, but it still wasn't the same and I felt more like an outsider than part of a different group. It didn't feel like I belonged with other people because I was never happy anymore and didn't experience the pure bliss of being with those 6 people I cherish, so I didn't feel connected to my new group and I didn't feel like I belonged with them, even if I liked the people and their company still. This connects to when Pedro feels excluded because he's more American than Mexican and he is told by a Mexican kid that he "isn't ready" for cool Mexican fireworks. This makes Pedro feel the need to prove himself and be seen as Mexican even if he's

	American too; leading him to feel like an outsider as I felt when my friends weren't hanging out in a group anymore. Pedro was also reminded of his more American side when he was denied a Mexican drink with raw milk that his stomach wouldn't be able to process because he was hospital-born; while his older siblings who were more Mexican could drink raw milk as they pleased. My experiences shape the way I interpret Pedro's situation by allowing me to relate to the feeling of being an outsider and not fitting in with the people around me. Having that experience gives me insight to how Pedro probably felt in those moments when he was viewed as American more so than Mexican; and I can relate to his character more in that way.
How has your book character changed over time: beginning, middle, end. Cite specific examples from the pictures/text. What key events (turning points) influence this development?	My book character has changed over time by first being more childish and not able to handle tough or serious situations well, then being challenged with facing a new experience of having an unfamiliar relative live in the same house, and finally being mature and brave enough to battle rough situations. Pedro was less mature in the beginning, avoiding serious or possibly upsetting conversations with TV shows as said on page 10; but after failing to save an injured deer and having to relocate his grandmother's remains, Pedro was more capable of processing and taking on weighty or mature experiences. Pedro was changed in the middle of the book through getting a new haircut (which shows new confidence and a higher opinion of himself, shown on page 134) and hearing brave stories about his grandfather, inspiring him to be brave and heroic. After going through new experiences that mature him and improve his confidence, Pedro is shown to be more grown up and able to handle adult situations with bravery and determination.

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What are some of the values of your family? Why are these important to you/your family? (Feel free to discuss with your family). How are your values similar or different to what the family/main character values?	Some values of my family are pets, quality time, belief in God, education, family meals, and honesty. My family really values pets because my mom always says that dogs make people happier and she can't possibly comprehend how outrageous it is to not own pets; I've had dogs since I can remember. My family values spending quality time together by eating meals at the dinner table while talking about our days or things that have been happening recently; we spend dinner together anytime we can. These values are different from Pedro's family's values because Pedro's family doesn't own a dog or indoor pet of any kind. My family's values are similar to Pedro's family's values because his family often spends dinner together at a giant table when possible. His family also has a strong belief in God and the older siblings value education and don't want to miss too much school. Pedro and his family try to spend quality time together when they stop at fascinating attractions or hold parties for their honored grandfather, and this is similar to how my family enjoys going places together and hanging out while shopping or being on vacation.
Choose one theme: identity, assimilation, culture, cultural preservation, immigration, or belonging. Explain how this theme develops across the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. Use specific evidence and explain how the character's experiences contribute to the theme.	Throughout the novel, the theme of identity is explored through each character's experiences, interests, and personalities. Themes of identity are stated in the beginning of the novel with a family introduction that says a little bit about each family member, allowing you to understand them a bit before reading. Through the middle of the book, the author shows identity through the grandfather and dad's experiences and hardships, with Pedro's grandfather losing his beloved wife and his dad losing his mother. Pedro throughout the middle of the novel is belittled for being less Mexican than the rest of his family, which compels him to prove himself and his identity. In addition to that, Pedro is forced to step up and go through serious and maturing experiences at the end of the book such as attempting to save a

	deer and reburial of his grandmother, which makes him more grown up and developed through new challenges. These losses and growths develop the characters and their identities, making them stronger and ready for new opportunities and challenges.
What are 2-3 important questions your novel raises about a real-world issue? Conduct brief research. What did you learn? Analyze: How does this new understanding deepen or change your interpretation of the novel or character? How does this information help you understand your novel to a new degree?	Topic: Questions 1. How are Mexican-Americans viewed, and does the fact that they're partially Mexican or partially American change how people view them? 2. Is getting through country borders difficult and as fear-worthy as shown in the novel? 3. What you learned: • Mexican-Americans are often viewed as hardworking and family-centered, but unfortunately also face negative stereotypes and are wrongly discriminated against. • Some Mexican-Americans give up Spanish for the English language to avoid discrimination. • It's generally not too difficult for legal travelers like tourists with passports to get past borders, but it can take a long time. • Coming back to America from Mexico requires strict screening to verify identity, and this can take a long time as well. This deepens my understanding of my novel by showing me how it's like to get through country borders and the struggles Mexican-Americans face, and I understand my character and his fears more through my learning. This supports my understanding by allowing me to see both good and bad viewings of Mexican-Americans, and think about what it's like to enter or exit a different country.

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What values, beliefs, or experiences do you think people often associate with being American? Where do you see those represented in your life and in your novel?	People often associate being "free" with being American because of the main idea in America being freedom and equality. Celebrating holidays like the 4th of July and Thanksgiving as well as having certain types of music are often thought of to be American as well, along with having smorgasbords of junk food. Lots of tourist attractions and fun places like Disney Land are also commonly associated with America, and these are represented in my novel with the younger kids being fascinated and distracted by exciting theme parks and expensive tourist spots while traveling. I see this in my life because I see tons of ads for Disney Land and other American attractions, and I've been to some of them! Another value that's often associated with being American is movies and comics of superheroes and other fun concepts, and this is represented through Pedro's strong interest in comic books and <i>Star Wars</i>. I see this represented in my life because when I go to stores there's hundreds of merchandise items of American superheroes and characters, there's items of them everywhere!