

Teacher's Guide to
Tagger

Written by Mary Monroe

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Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
1 B	1. D	
2 D	2. A	Varied answers.
3 C	3. C	
4 C	4. B	
5 C	5. A	
6 B	6. C	
7 A	7. C	
8 A	8. B	
9 C	9. A	
10 A	10. B	
Unit 4	Unit 5	
1 C	1B	
2 A	2D	
3 B	3A	
4 D	4 A	
5 D	5 B	
6 A	6 B	
7 D	7A	
8 B	8C	
9 C	9C	
10B	10A	

Student's Name _____

UNIT ONE

Chapters 1-7

COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **absurdity** mean?

“ ‘Just some Graff, man, people don’t appreciate,’ I answered, my tone reflecting my disbelief at the absurdity of it.”

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| a. kindness | c. horror |
| b. ridiculous | d. fantasy |

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **accumulating** mean?

“I had all the spray can paints – I’d been accumulating them for over a year now.”

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a. selling | c. dispersing |
| b. enjoying | d. collecting |

B. Supporting Details

3. The following words were said by

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| a. M.C. | c. Marisol |
| b. Luis | d. The Beast |

“Hey dreamer, what are you in such deep thought about?”

4. The following words were said by

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| a. Dad | c. Juan |
| b. Mr. Martin | d. Luis |

“Grow up, be a man. I can’t live here forever and take care of mom.”

C. Main Idea

5. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- People in foreign countries write in code.
- People read messages in a bottle.
- Graffiti can help people form a bond.
- Graffiti is a foreign language.

“We made a connection – graffiti is a language in code, and once you could read the message – it was like finding your soul.”

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- a. A storm was coming.
 - b. Luis has emotion he wants to express.
 - c. Luis likes storms.
 - d. Marisol likes to draw graffiti.

“I felt a storm brewing in me that had to be released.”

D. Literary Elements

7. What literary device does the author use when Luis says, “I felt like a fish caught on a line?”
- a. Simile
 - b. Flashback
 - c. Poetry
 - d. Metaphor
8. What literary device does the author use on pg. 10 with the words, “ ‘aight.”
- a. Dialect
 - b. Symbol
 - c. Onomatopoeia
 - d. Personification

E. Conclusions

9. From the following excerpt, you can conclude
- a. Luis is sick.
 - b. Luis likes to draw.
 - c. Luis wants to feel free.

“Let ‘em catch me, I thought. I DON’T CARE! I’m sick and tired of people telling me what to do – wake up, go to school, read this, draw this, write this, take this test. I’m not some puppet people can order around.”

10. From the following excerpt, you can conclude
- a. The crew accepted Luis.
 - b. Luis worked in the house.
 - c. The Beast turned against Luis.

“Without saying a word, the guys seemed to communicate something to The Beast, because he turned to me and said, ‘Okay, you’re in.’ ”

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why is Luis always sleeping in class? How do his teachers and friends react?

2. Who is Marisol? What does she look like?

3. How did Luis get his nickname – “Tiny?”

4. What was the reason AP Docker pulled Luis out of class?

5. Who does Luis meet at Saturday School? Briefly describe each person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Luis feels he lets Ms. Zacker down. Have you ever let someone important to you down? How did you feel?**
- 2. “Graffiti” is what Luis is about. What are you about? Make a whole class chart of the findings.**
- 3. Luis says, “Every drop of my existence in my body had a release; I was at total peace. It was the quiet after the storm.”**

What activities, such as sports, exercise, or meditation allow you to feel in total peace? How and why?

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Go to www.graffitcreator.net and create your name in graffiti letters.**
- 2. Write a persuasive essay to a local government official asking that a vacant warehouse be used as a gallery for graffiti drawings to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.**
- 3. Do the students in Saturday Detention remind you of your friends? How are they alike? Compare your friends with these students in a compare/contrast paragraph.**

Student's Name _____

UNIT TWO

Chapters 8 - 15

COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **intoxicating** mean?

“The excitement of almost being caught, feeling my heart throbbing, feeling so alive, added to the intoxicating rush I experienced.”

- a. angry
- b. scary
- c. drunken
- d. extremely happy

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **hesitated** mean?

“...He first hesitated...but then...Loco couldn't resist saying, ‘You feel me? That's my work, man, and I'm proud of it.’ ”

- a. waited to act
- b. rushed
- c. smiled
- d. cried

B. Supporting Details

3. The following words were said by

- a. M.C.
- b. Grill
- c. Beast
- d. Loco

“We're the best, now that we got you Luis. We can expand into Pit's borders – show them who's the king of the turf.”

4. The following words were said by

- a. Mom
- b. Dad
- c. Juan
- d. Maritza

“The house I live in, you know, our house, it's haunted too.”

C. Main Idea

5. The main idea of the excerpt below is that

- a. Luis was getting addicted to graffiti.
- b. Luis is an alcoholic.
- c. Luis likes Tequila.

“The world of Skills had a grip on me that was intoxicating, like the finest bottle of Tequila to an alcoholic.”

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- a. Luis likes to sing.
 - b. Chants are part of Luis' mind.
 - c. Luis doesn't want to be a snitch.

“What did he want me to do? Snitch? Somewhere in the back of my mind, I heard the singsong chant, ‘Snitches get stitches ... snitches get stitches.’”

D. Literary Elements

7. What is the Beast's tone when he says to Luis, “What's your name? Tiny? No, more like puny.”

- a. Comical
- b. Light-hearted
- c. Disrespectful
- d. Positive

8. When Sarah the waitress pronounced her words as Pecaaan and Aaapple, this is an example of:

- a. Metaphor
- b. Dialect
- c. Personification
- d. Simile

E. Conclusions

9. From the following excerpt, you can conclude

- a. Luis feels an uncanny attraction to the wall.
- b. Luis feels electricity when he touches the wall.
- c. Luis can only communicate with non-humans.

“The blank wall ... connected with me, as if communicating silently with me. It was like it was electronically charged, drawing me to it.”

10. From the following excerpt, you can conclude

- a. The cop is nicer than Luis' dad.
- b. The cop is making fun of Luis.
- c. The cop could be Luis' dad.

“No, son, I'm not your daddy. But you can call me Daddy if you tell me what I need to know.”

UNIT 3

Chapters 16 - 23

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why was Luis allowed to move into his dad's home in Cave-in-Rock instead of staying in the Juvenile Jail?

2. What did Luis learn that helped him realize it wasn't his fault that the crew got arrested?

3. Who is Sasha? What does she look like? How does Luis feel about her?

4. Who are Luis' friends in Cave-in-Rock?

5. What does Luis select as his nickname now that he's in Cave-in-Rock? Why is this significant?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Luis is always looking for respect. Is being respected important to you? Why or why not?**
- 2. Luis sometimes thinks one way (Luis Arteaga doesn't do homework), but outwardly says something else – ie: "Yes, Mam." Do you ever have differences in what you think – and say out loud? Give specific examples.**
- 3. Luis is exhausted thinking about "What ifs" ... for example, what if mom was killed by the stray bullet. How can thinking about "What ifs" be both positive and negative. List some specific examples.**

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Pretend you are an advice columnist, like Dear Abby. You've received the following letter. Write a reply giving the best advice you can.**

Dear Abby,

Sometimes I feel I can't control myself when it comes to drawing graffiti. What should I do?

- 2. Pretend you are the judge who assigned punishment to The Beast, Grill, Loco and Luis. What would your punishment be – and why?**

UNIT FOUR

Chapters 24 - 31

COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **cringed** mean?

“...like he was going to smack my face and head. I cringed backwards.”

- a. feel
- b. cried
- c. to shrink in fear
- d. leaped

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **cherish** mean?

“...because we cherish our streams and cliffs...”

- a. to treat as dear
- b. to treat as family
- c. to treat as an enemy
- d. to treat as ourselves

B. Supporting Details

3. The following words were said by

- a. Mom
- b. Dad
- c. Beast
- d. The police

“Don’t you think I won’t hit you boy. I, unlike you, do know what consequences are.”

4. The following words were said by

- a. The Colonel
- b. Dad
- c. Marisol
- d. Miss Beaucamp

“I want you to grow as an artist. People will respect you for it.”

C. Main Idea

5. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- Luis has a good memory.
 - The Colonel is better than Luis' dad.
 - The Colonel has a bad memory and forgets.
 - The Colonel was a positive influence in Luis' life.

“I’m sure I would never forget the Colonel and how he helped change my life.”

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- Luis is shocked that it looks like his work.
 - It is Luis' work
 - Luis is lying.

“There was no denying it – it was my work. I ... but ... don’t know how,” I stammered in disbelief.

D. Literary and Language Elements

7. What is Luis' mood in Chapter 25?
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a. Scary | c. Elated |
| b. Humorous | d. Melancholy |

8. In the following excerpt, what is the punctuation mark after the word, “text”?
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. Semi Colon | c. Apostrophe |
| b. Colon | d. Dash |

“Marisol’s text: It sounds so cool.”

E. Conclusions

9. From the following excerpt, you can conclude
- Luis is going out.
 - Dad always commands Luis to do stuff.
 - Luis' dad is very angry.

‘Get dressed now!’ It was a command.

10. From the following excerpt, you can conclude
- Luis is really sick.
 - Luis lies to his dad.
 - Luis likes school.

“What excuse would I give Dad? I had been missing school a couple times a week. I’d make up something. I always did.”

UNIT FIVE

Chapters 32 - 38

COMPREHENSION SKILL QUESTIONS

A. Vocabulary in Context

1. In the following excerpt, what does the word **bewildered** mean?

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. appreciative | c. angry |
| b. confused | d. thankful |

“What do you mean?” I asked, truly bewildered?

2. In the following excerpt, what does the word **taunted** mean?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| a. told | c. surprised |
| b. teased | d. provoked |

“Weird luck, eh?” Grill taunted me.

B. Supporting Details

3. The following words were said by

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| a. Grill | c. M.C. |
| b. Loco | d. Rubber Band |

“It was because of you that The Beast is dead. If he hadn’t been on the streets at your house, he’d still be alive.”

4. The following words were said by

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| a. Luis | c. Rat |
| b. Catfish | d. Grill |

“Man, the chicks were swooning all over us. Sasha (Princess) was definitely into me, asking me all sorts of questions.”

C. Main Idea

5. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- a. Luis is angry.
 - b. Luis is doubting himself.
 - c. Luis doesn't care.
 - d. Luis is a criminal.

“I retreated to my room, feeling like the biggest criminal to ever hit the streets of Cave-in-Rock.”

6. The main idea of the excerpt below is that
- a. Luis likes to hide in the cave.
 - b. They're hiding in the cave waiting to attack.
 - c. The spider is catching its prey.

“The deep recesses offered us the perfect hiding place to sleep and wait for our prey to fall into his trap.”

D. Literary Elements

7. When Grill says, “Naw, it ain't fair, you know?” this is an example of
- a. Slang
 - b. Foreshadowing
 - c. Flashback
 - d. Symbol
8. When Sophie says, “Life is just one big circle,” it's an example of
- a. Simile
 - b. Symbol
 - c. Metaphor
 - d. Hyperbole

E. Conclusions

9. From the following excerpt, you can conclude
- a. Luis doesn't fit in.
 - b. Luis likes being a loner.
 - c. Luis has always wanted to belong.

“I knew I found my place to belong – and that's all that really matters.”

10. From the following excerpt, you can conclude
- a. Life has meaning.
 - b. Life is random.
 - c. Life has problems.

“I do think that there was a reason I moved to Cave-in-Rock and I do think there was a reason I found this medal, which saved my life.”

