

Name: _____

Student Journal

Breaking Through

by Francisco Jiménez

Reading Schedule

Group members: _____

| <i>Breaking Through</i> | Student Journal | Due Date | Discussion Date |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Introduction | Pages 3–4 | | |
| Pages 15–58 | Pages 5–6 | | |
| Pages 59–102 | Pages 7–8 | | |
| Pages 103–147 | Pages 9–10 | | |
| Pages 148–183 | Pages 11–12 | | |
| Pages 184–214 | Pages 13–14 | | |
| The Exchange | | | |
| Assessment | | | |

THE EXCHANGE

True or False?
The most difficult
choices have the
best results.

Getting Started

What If?

Your family needs you to get a part-time job to help pay the bills. Once you begin your job, you find that it has long hours and does not pay well. You do not have enough time to study and your grades are suffering. But your boss likes you and wants to offer you a full-time position. You can't go to school and work at the same time, so you have to make a decision.

You have always dreamed of going to college. You don't want to be poor and struggle for the rest of your life like your family does. But your family needs the money you make now, just to live.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

- What would be difficult about this decision?
- What decision would you make?
- How could others be affected by your decision?

Connect to The Exchange Question Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: **True or False? The most difficult choices have the best results.** Summarize your discussion.

Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 9–11 in *Breaking Through*. The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book. Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- the background and accomplishments of the author, Francisco Jiménez
- the challenges of being an illegal immigrant and migrant farm worker
- the laws that affect immigrants in the United States

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. Why was it difficult for migrant farm workers in California to escape poverty?

2. Why do so many immigrants enter the United States illegally?

3. What dreams came true for Francisco Jiménez?

Introduction: Key Concepts

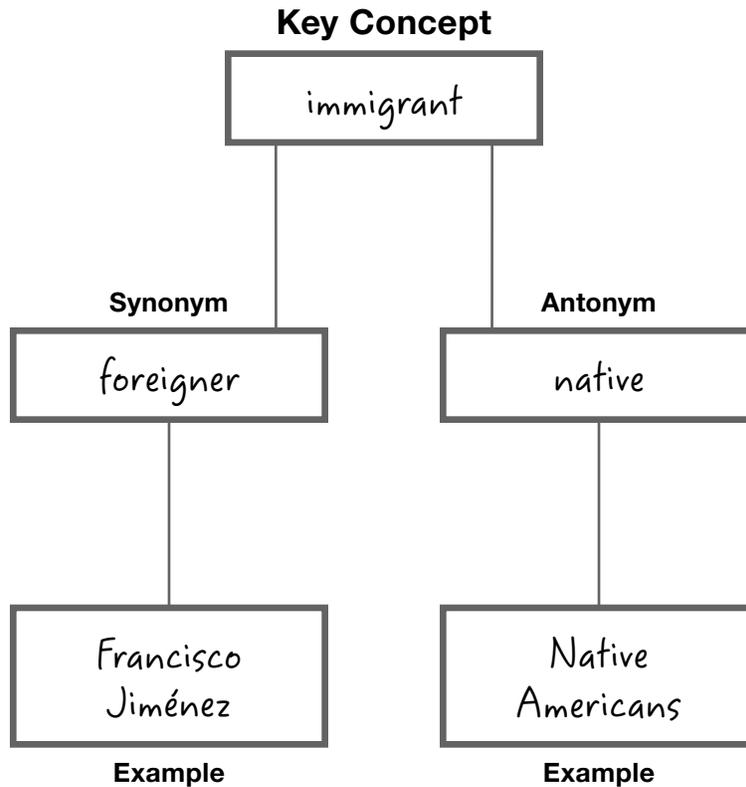
Word Map

Study the **Word Map** for *immigrant*. Write a sentence using the word *immigrant*.

Key Concepts

accomplish
capable
deport
enrich
immigrant

Word Map



On a separate sheet of paper, create a **Word Map** for each **Key Concept** word. Use a thesaurus to find antonyms and synonyms. Write two sentences for each word—one using the **Key Concept** word and one using either the antonym or synonym.

Respond to Pages 15–58

1. **Personal Response** Panchito took a risk when he sang an Elvis song in front of the class to make friends and fit in. Have you ever taken a risk to fit in? How did it make you feel?

2. **Irony** What was ironic about Panchito reciting the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence when *la migra* came to take him from school? Use the word *deport* in your response.

3. **Conclusions** Even without supervision, Panchito and Roberto obeyed the rules of their parents. They did their chores and kept up with their responsibilities. What can you conclude about Panchito and Roberto?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 15–58, continued

5. **Author’s Point of View** It was very difficult for Panchito to fit in at school and make friends. List some of his obstacles on the left side of the **T Chart** and what he did to overcome them on the right side.

T Chart

| <i>Obstacle</i> | <i>Solution</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| | |

Why did Panchito try so hard to overcome these obstacles when he had so many other big problems to worry about? What else could he have done to solve his problems?

Respond to Pages 59–102

1. **Personal Response** Panchito was excited and nervous about the first day of high school. He wanted to make sure he looked his best. When have you felt both excited and nervous about an event? What did you do?

2. **Cause and Effect** How did reading about the Spanish explorer Hernan Cortés and his accomplishments affect Panchito? Why did it affect him this way? Use the word *accomplish* in your answer.

3. **Inference** Papá told Panchito, “only rich people become teachers.” Why did he say this? How did this affect Panchito?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 59–102, *continued*

5. Main Idea and Details Panchito had few role models and many obstacles that made school difficult for him. List details that support the main idea below.

Main Idea Diagram

| |
|--|
| Main Idea: <i>Even with hard work, school was difficult for Panchito.</i> |
| Detail: |

What might have helped Panchito to succeed in school? Give two examples.

Respond to Pages 103–147

1. **Personal Response** Panchito learned to read for enjoyment when he read *The Grapes of Wrath*. He related to that story because it was similar to the experiences of his family. What book or movie do you relate to? Why?

2. **Summarize** Which incidents made Panchito aware of discrimination? Why did he have difficulty understanding why people discriminate against immigrants? Use the word *immigrant* in your response.

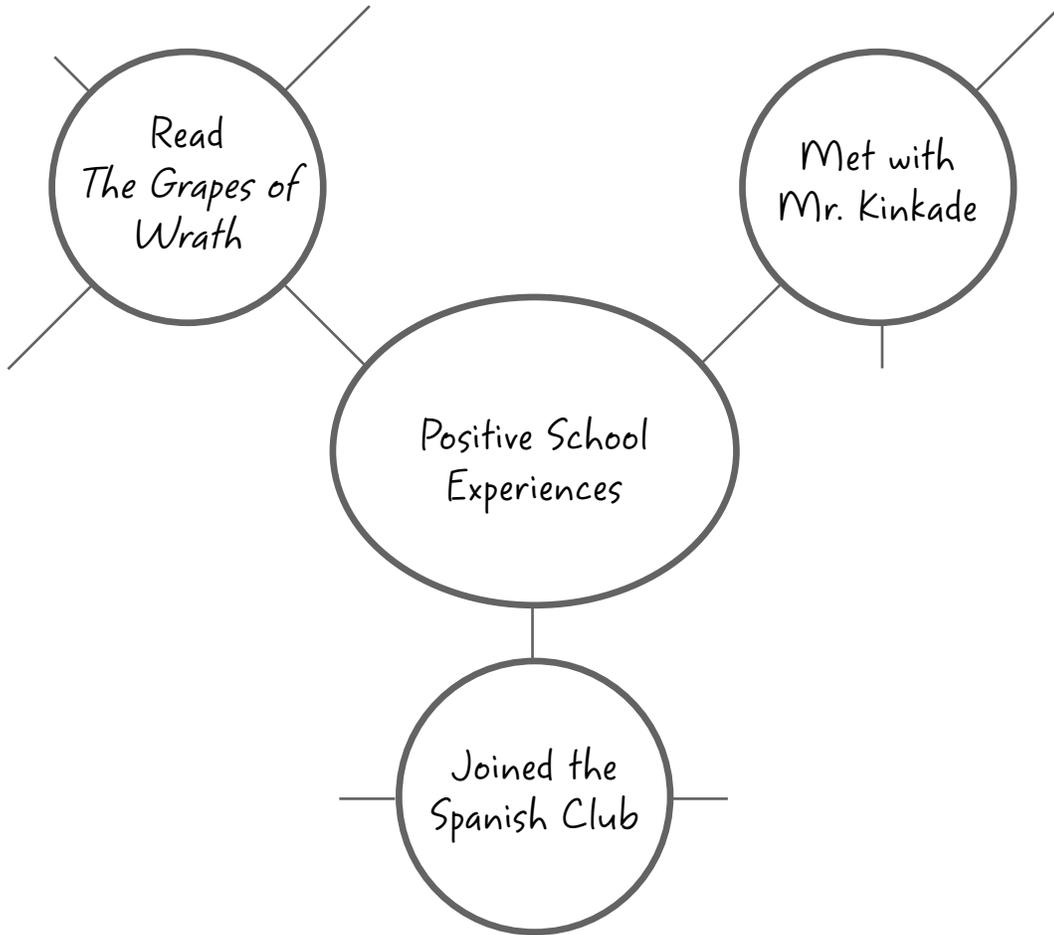
3. **Compare and Contrast** When the Spanish Club tried to plan a holiday event, how did Panchito see things differently from his classmates? How did his own family benefit from his idea for an event?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 103–147, continued

5. **Summarize** School experiences enriched Panchito’s life. Describe how these key events helped Panchito grow and learn. Use the **Cluster** to answer the question.

Cluster



Compare the different school experiences. How did each experience help Panchito to become more connected to school and learning?

Respond to Pages 148–183

1. **Personal Response** Panchito took a leadership position as student body president at his school. Describe a time when you were a leader. What was rewarding about being a leader? What was challenging?

2. **Inference** What made Panchito feel uncomfortable at the Rotary Club? How did his feelings affect his speech? Use the word *capable* in your response.

3. **Paraphrase** Manuelito told Panchito to run for student body president because “everyone at Bonetti Ranch will be proud.” What was he really saying to Panchito? Why did this convince Panchito to run?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Pages 148–183, *continued*

5. Judgments Panchito’s success at school grows, but further challenges also develop. List the successes on the left side and the challenges on the right side of the **T Chart**.

T Chart

| <i>Panchito's Successes</i> | <i>Panchito's Challenges</i> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | |

Panchito’s choices cause him to become ill. Were his successes worth the price he paid? Why or why not?

Respond to Pages 184–214

1. Personal Response Mr. Kinkade and Mr. Penney helped Panchito attend college. Write about an adult who has helped you in some way. How might your life be different if they had not helped?

2. Flashback Panchito saw many places from his past and recalled childhood events on his drive to college. How did these events enrich his life? Use the word *enrich* in your response.

3. Conclusions Why did Papá often seem angry and sad when Panchito accomplished things, such as being accepted into college?

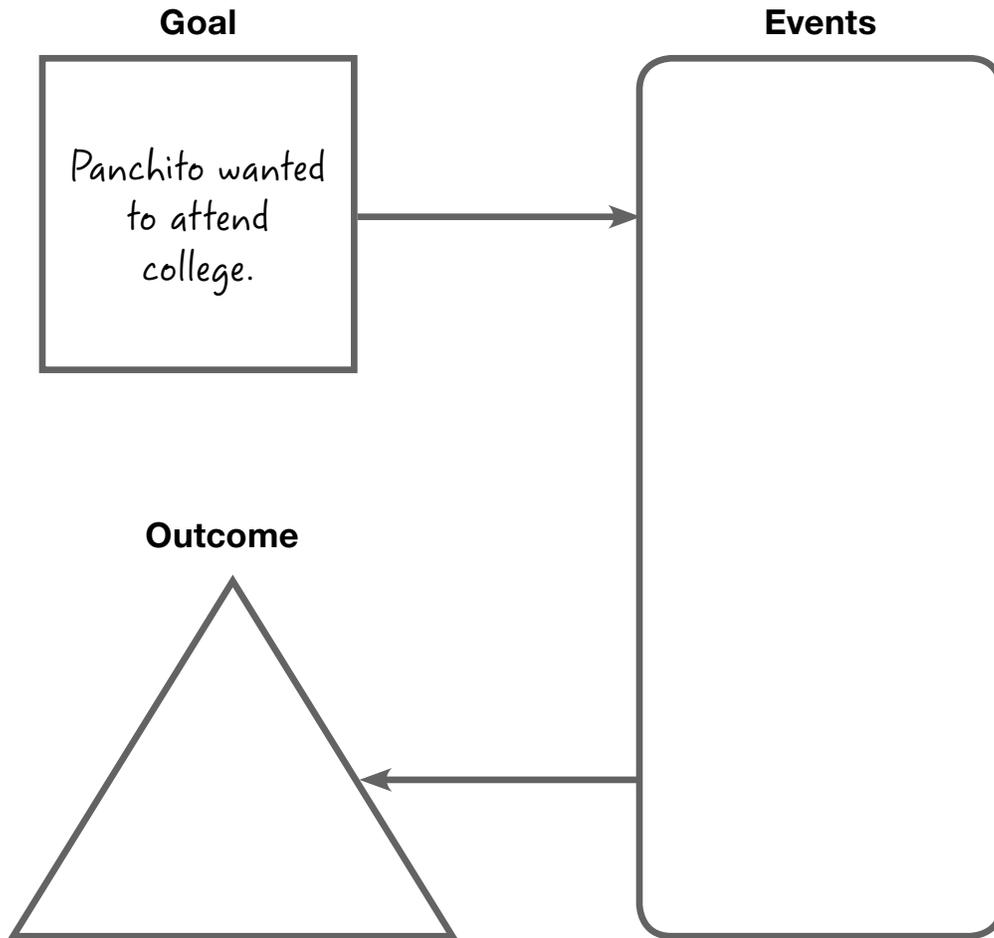
What If?

4. Connect Look at your notes on **Student Journal, page 2**. Think about what you would do if you had to decide between your family and your future. Compare this to *Breaking Through*. Did Panchito’s decisions about his life have positive or negative results?

Respond to Pages 184-214, continued

5. **Opinion** Panchito struggled to attend college. List the events and the outcome. Use the **Goal and Outcome Chart** to answer the question.

Goal and Outcome Chart



Could Panchito have gone to college without the help he received?
Why or why not?
