




**COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES**



ODE Library Guideline	Grade Band: 3-5 Guideline: Information Literacy Organizer: Reading Encouragement Character Traits Lesson
Title	Imagine by Juan Felipe Herrera U.S. Poet Laureate from 2015-2017 - 1st U.S. Latino Poet Laureate A buoyant, breathtaking, biographical poem that speaks to every dreaming heart. 
Resources and Materials	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● book - <i>Imagine</i> by Juan Felipe Herrera● chart paper● marker● Post-it notes to prep for read aloud● Let's Meet Juan Felipe Herrera, Our 21st U.S. Poet Laureate● Character Traits Worksheet
Activity	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Define character traits● Use inference skills to analyze a character using character traits● Cite evidence from text to support conclusions Prep: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use Post-it notes to mark specific points in the story where the character's words, actions, thoughts, or feelings might help determine a character trait. This will make the discussion flow during the lesson.

Before Reading:

- Choose a favorite book character. Ask students to describe that character using specific words. Have students share. Inform students that when they use words to describe a character's actions, thoughts, words, or feelings they are using **character traits**. We can determine character traits by looking at what a character says (their words), how a character feels, what a character thinks, and what actions a character makes.
- Using chart paper, have the class come up with a list of "Character Traits" they might use to describe a person. Add to this list as children come up with new words.
- Explain that the students are going to read a book about a person who came to the U.S. not knowing the English language and ended up as an accomplished writer - a poet. Tell students this story is actually a poem that tells his story. Ask students to think about Juan Herrera's words, thoughts, feelings and actions while reading.

During Reading:

- As the story is read, pause at key points, and have the students fill in the chart. Have the students leave the boxes labeled character trait empty until after the story is finished. Discuss how his actions, words, feelings, and thoughts determine his character.
- After the story is finished have the students reread their responses for how Juan acted, what he said, thought and felt. Students should then use that information to **infer character traits** to describe Juan Herrera.

After Reading:

- The next visit have the students choose a book they can read independently. While reading, have the students fill out a blank [Character Traits Worksheet](#) about the main character.
- Have students share their completed worksheets with one another. Add new character traits to the class "Character Traits" poster. If you have a Smartboard or a computer projector you can create a class chart on the computer instead, and then save and print a copy for each student.
- Students can write their own "Imagine" poems based on their own personal character traits.