

The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor

Written by Sonia Sotomayor

Yearling

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352 pages | \$8.99 | Lexile: 1070L



LESSON FOCUS

Characters and drawing conclusions

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Characters and character development are a critical component to storytelling. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to read two paragraphs that each develop a different essential character in *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor. Students will collect evidence supporting what they learn about the character and they will draw a conclusion about that character.

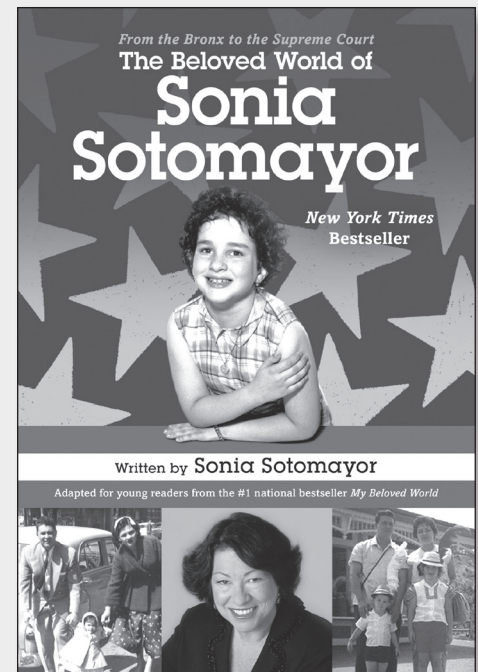
LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will identify evidence to support a character description.
2. Students will draw a conclusion about the character evidence.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor
Chapter 1, page 17
2. Character Worksheet

Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



SUMMARY

Discover the inspiring life of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, in this middle-grade adaptation of her bestselling adult memoir, *My Beloved World*.

“A lively autobiography.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Step 1: Introduce *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor.

Step 2: Introduce the literary term “characterization” to students.
Check out this website for support at: <https://literaryterms.net/characterization/>

Step 3: Have students read chapter 1 (the two paragraphs about Sonia Sotomayor’s parents on page 17) or read the excerpt aloud to students.

KEY IDEAS ABOUT FATHER:

- Cooked dinner for the family
- Excellent cook
- Left the dirty dishes
- Shut himself in the bedroom
- Tells kids to go to bed

KEY IDEAS ABOUT MOTHER:

- Avoids being home with Father
- Worked the night shift as a nurse
- When she wasn’t working, she would drop the kids off at Abuelita’s apartment
- Beautiful
- Elegantly dressed
- Strong and decisive
- She insisted kids go to Catholic school

Step 4: Have the students read the paragraphs a second time with a purpose. This time, they are collecting evidence about each of the characters.

Step 5: Students should write their evidence on the Character worksheet provided.

Step 6: Students will draw a conclusion about each character. What can the reader learn about each character overall? When making judgments about the characters, can students put aside their own preconceptions and instead think objectively (at the facts), like a lawyer or a judge?

CHARACTERS

Directions: Read both paragraphs from page 17 of *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*. The author, Sonia Sotomayor, describes her parents, essential characters from her life story. Collect details from the two paragraphs about each of her parents and place the evidence in the chart. Once you have reviewed all the evidence, draw an overall conclusion about each of the characters.

CHARACTER 1: FATHER	CHARACTER 2: MOTHER
EVIDENCE	EVIDENCE
DRAW A CONCLUSION ABOUT THIS CHARACTER:	DRAW A CONCLUSION ABOUT THIS CHARACTER:

(If needed, please use an additional sheet of paper to respond)

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