

# escape by margarita engle answer key

Escape by Margarita Engle answer key is a valuable resource for educators and students alike, providing insights into the themes, characters, and literary devices employed in this poignant work. Margarita Engle, a renowned Cuban-American author, weaves together a narrative that resonates deeply with readers through its exploration of freedom, family, and the complexities of human relationships. In this article, we will delve into the key themes of "Escape," the characters that populate its pages, and the literary techniques that Engle employs to convey her message. Additionally, we will provide an answer key to some of the most commonly asked questions about the book, making it easier for students to engage with the material.

## Overview of "Escape"

"Escape" is a novel-in-verse that tells the story of a young Cuban girl living in a tumultuous time in her country's history. The narrative is framed around the girl's longing for freedom and a better life, highlighting the struggles faced by families during political upheaval. Engle's unique poetic style allows readers to feel the weight of the protagonist's experiences, as well as the broader context of Cuban society.

## Key Themes

### 1. Freedom and Oppression

- The central theme of "Escape" revolves around the quest for freedom. The protagonist yearns for liberation from the constraints imposed by her government and society.
- The contrast between the oppressive environment and the desire for freedom is vividly portrayed through the protagonist's internal struggles.

### 2. Family and Loyalty

- Family plays a crucial role in the narrative, with the protagonist's relationships influencing her decisions and emotional state.
- The loyalty to family is tested as characters navigate the challenges posed by their circumstances, often leading to difficult choices.

### 3. Cultural Identity

- Engle explores the theme of cultural identity, particularly for those who are caught between two worlds.
- The protagonist grapples with her Cuban heritage while also contemplating a potential future in a different country.

### 4. Hope and Resilience

- Despite the bleak circumstances, the theme of hope is prevalent throughout

the story. The protagonist's dreams for a better life serve as a source of strength.

- Resilience is a key trait that allows characters to endure hardship and strive for change, reflecting the human spirit's capacity to overcome adversity.

## Characters in "Escape"

Understanding the characters in "Escape" is essential to grasping the depth of the narrative. Each character represents different facets of the struggles faced by those living in a politically charged environment.

### Main Characters

#### 1. The Protagonist

- A young Cuban girl whose journey for freedom drives the narrative. Her thoughts and emotions are explored through Engle's poetic verses.
- Represents the voice of youth and the desire for a future unshackled by oppression.

#### 2. The Mother

- A pillar of strength for the protagonist, her character embodies the struggles faced by women in society.
- Her sacrifices and decisions reflect the theme of loyalty and the complexities of familial relationships.

#### 3. The Father

- Often depicted as a figure torn between duty to family and the pressures of societal expectations.
- His character adds depth to the narrative, illustrating the male perspective on the issues of freedom and familial loyalty.

#### 4. Supporting Characters

- Various friends and relatives contribute to the protagonist's journey, each offering different viewpoints on freedom and resistance.
- These characters help to create a rich tapestry of experiences that enhance the overall narrative.

## Literary Techniques

Margarita Engle employs various literary techniques to convey her themes and engage readers. Her use of poetry is especially noteworthy, as it adds a lyrical quality to the narrative.

## Poetic Structure

- The novel is written in free verse, allowing for a fluid and emotive expression of thoughts and feelings.
- The brevity of the verses often mirrors the intensity of the protagonist's experiences, creating a sense of urgency.

## Imagery and Symbolism

- Engle uses vivid imagery to paint a picture of the Cuban landscape and the emotions associated with it. This helps to ground the reader in the setting.
- Symbolism plays a crucial role, with objects and actions representing larger concepts such as freedom, oppression, and hope.

## Voice and Perspective

- The first-person perspective allows readers to intimately connect with the protagonist's thoughts and feelings.
- Engle's use of voice captures the innocence and complexity of youth, making the protagonist's journey relatable to readers of all ages.

## Answer Key for Common Questions

Here is an answer key to some common questions that students might have while studying "Escape."

1. What motivates the protagonist's desire to escape?
  - The protagonist is motivated by a longing for freedom and a better life, driven by the oppressive conditions in Cuba and personal experiences of loss and hardship.
2. How does family influence the protagonist's decisions?
  - Family loyalty plays a significant role in the protagonist's decisions. Her love for her family often conflicts with her desire for freedom, creating emotional turmoil.
3. What role does hope play in the narrative?
  - Hope serves as a driving force for the protagonist. Despite facing overwhelming challenges, her dreams for a better future keep her motivated and resilient.
4. How does Engle use imagery to enhance the story?
  - Engle's use of vivid imagery immerses readers in the Cuban landscape and the protagonist's emotional state, making the experiences more tangible and

relatable.

5. What are some key symbols in the book?

- Symbols such as the ocean represent both a barrier and a pathway to freedom, highlighting the duality of escape and the risks involved.

6. How does the structure of free verse impact the reading experience?

- The free verse structure allows for a more personal and emotive reading experience, drawing readers closer to the protagonist's inner world and thoughts.

## **Conclusion**

In "Escape," Margarita Engle masterfully combines poetry with a compelling narrative to explore themes of freedom, family, and resilience. The characters are richly developed, and the literary techniques enhance the emotional depth of the story. Understanding these elements is crucial for readers to fully appreciate the nuances of the narrative. The Escape by Margarita Engle answer key serves as a helpful tool for students and educators, facilitating deeper engagement with the text and encouraging thoughtful discussion about its themes and characters. Through her poignant storytelling, Engle invites readers to reflect on their own quests for freedom and the importance of hope in the face of adversity.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main theme of 'Escape' by Margarita Engle?**

The main theme of 'Escape' revolves around the quest for freedom and the struggles faced by individuals seeking to break free from oppression.

### **Who is the protagonist in 'Escape' and what are her challenges?**

The protagonist is a young girl who faces challenges such as societal expectations, personal trauma, and the desire to find her own identity.

### **How does Margarita Engle use poetry in 'Escape'?**

Margarita Engle uses poetry to convey deep emotions and experiences, allowing readers to connect with the characters on a more intimate level.

## **What historical context does 'Escape' address?**

'Escape' addresses the historical context of Cuba's political turmoil and the impact of revolution on families and individuals.

## **What literary devices are prominent in 'Escape'?**

Prominent literary devices in 'Escape' include imagery, symbolism, and metaphor, which enhance the emotional depth of the narrative.

## **How does the setting influence the story in 'Escape'?**

The setting in 'Escape' plays a crucial role as it reflects the characters' internal struggles and the external conflicts arising from their environment.

## **What role does family play in 'Escape'?**

Family plays a significant role in 'Escape', highlighting the bonds that can both support and constrain individuals in their pursuit of freedom.

## **What message does 'Escape' convey about resilience?**

'Escape' conveys a powerful message about resilience, emphasizing the strength of the human spirit in overcoming adversity.

## **What are some critical responses to 'Escape' by Margarita Engle?**

Critical responses to 'Escape' often praise its lyrical prose and emotional depth, noting its ability to inspire discussions about freedom and identity.

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