

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Educator's Guide

About the Series

Definitely Dominguita is an own-voices early chapter book series about a Cuban-American girl who loves the classics her Abuela read her as bedtime stories and loves to pretend. With two newly-found friends, Pancho Sanchez and Steph Williams, Dom Melendez has contemporary adventures while pretending to be characters from books like **Don Quixote**, **Treasure Island**, **The Three Musketeers**, and **Sherlock Holmes**.

About Book 1

The Knight of the Cape:

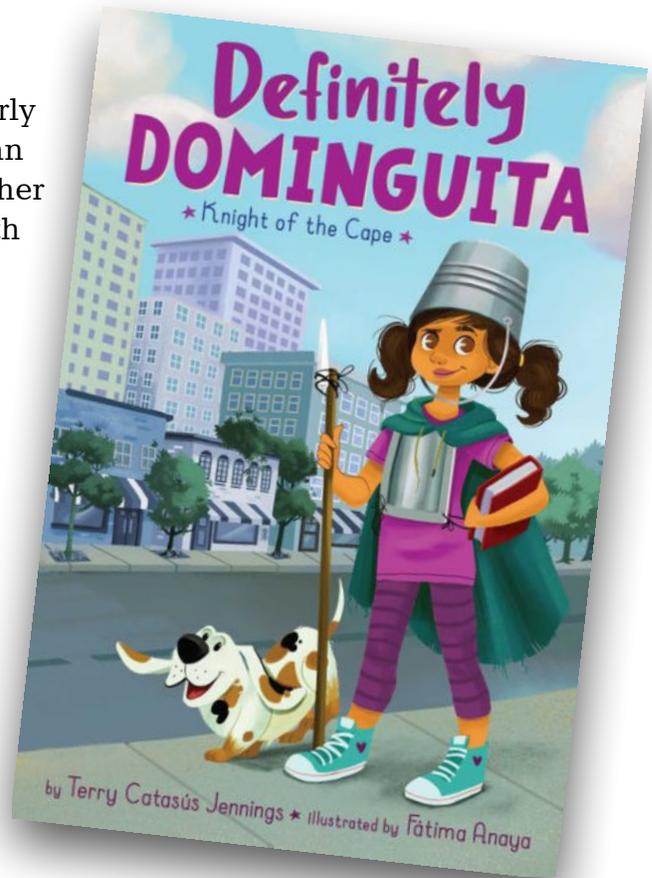
Definitely Dominguita, Book 1

By Terry Catasús Jennings

Illustrated by Fátima Anaya

Published by Aladdin/Simon & Schuster

Hardcover & Paperback



All Dominguita wants to do is read. Especially the books in Spanish that Abuela gave to her just before she moved away. They were classics that Abuela and Dominguita read together, classics her abuela brought with her all the way from Cuba when she was a young girl. It helps Dominguita feel like Abuela's still there with her.

One of her favorites, *Don Quixote*, tells of a brave knight errant who tries to do good deeds. Dominguita decides that she, too, will become a knight and do good deeds around her community, creating a grand adventure for her to share with her abuela. And when the class bully tells Dominguita that girls can't be knights, Dom is determined to prove him wrong. With a team of new friends, can Dominguita learn how to be the hero of her own story?

"While the plot is carried by Dom's search for knightly deeds, the focus is on the relationships in her vibrant Cuban American community. It's heartwarming to see adults take a young girl's knightly play seriously. Even better are the friendships she builds with her squire, Pancho Sanchez, and her master of the cookies, Steph, who walks with a brace. A charming adventure that will encourage kids to become knights in their own communities as well." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **Starred Review**

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Educator's Guide

About the Creators

Author Terry Catasús Jennings

landed in the United States on September 11, 1961, after a short flight from Cuba. On September 12th, she was enrolled in seventh grade in an American school. Her family, including her father who had been jailed during the Bay of Pigs invasion, was now in a free country. The only catch for twelve-year-old Terry was that she could count in English and recite the days of the week and the months of the year, but not much more. Often being the only Cuban in her school—even through college—Terry knows what it's like to be the new kid on the block. She is delighted to have the opportunity, with **Definitely Dominguita**, to portray a child of immigrants who is normal—no different than her peers—other than she loves the classics (like Jennings did as a child) and thinks Cuban food rules. Explore more at TerryCJennings.com.



Illustrator Fátima Anaya, born in the tiniest country of Central America, always wanted to craft stories celebrating the magic in the ordinary. Even before she could write, she started to illustrate every moment. This passion for drawing motivated her to achieve a BA in graphic design at Don Bosco University in El Salvador. Her inspiration comes from love, peace, childhood, and sometimes historical events. Explore more at FatimaAnaya.com

This Guide was created by Terry Catasús Jennings with Cheryl Freeman, Retired Teacher from the Sunrise Valley Elementary School in Reston, VA.

The Photos are of a young Terry Catasús Jennings.

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

Making Inferences & Using the Text to Understand the Characters

The **Definitely Dominguita** series is full of interesting characters. As the reader, you can make inferences about them because of what they say and do. For each character, circle the words that describe the character and then use the story to support your thinking.

Dominguita

kind unique brave lazy thoughtful weird friendly helpful bossy

Choose one of the words you circled. Tell us what Dominguita does or says in the book that supports your choice:

Dominguita is _____ because _____

Pancho

smart friendly quiet loud thoughtful hard-working whiny honest

Pancho is _____ because _____

Steph

spunky friendly lonely quiet mysterious open cautious smart

Steph is _____ because _____

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

Writing poems can lead you to think more deeply and achieve a better understanding of character. Below are several poem forms to help you further understand character. We will explore the Acrostic, Diamante, and BioPoem forms.

Acrostic Poem

D _____

O _____

M _____

I _____

N _____

G _____

U _____

I _____

T _____

A _____

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

Writing a Bio Poem

After reading the first two chapters of **The Knight of the Cape**, write a bio poem about how you see Dominguita. Then write a poem about yourself. Compare and contrast the poems.

After reading the whole book, write a new bio poem about how you see Dominguita. Compare and contrast the two poems so that you can observe the growth and changes in the character.

Bio Poem Template:

Line 1. First Name only

Line 2. Son/Daughter of (Parent names)

Line 3. Three adjectives that describe character

Line 4. Who loves to (name two things character likes to do)

Line 5. Who is happiest when (name one thing that makes character happiest)

Line 6. Who is afraid (name something character is afraid of)

Line 7. Who wants (name one thing that character wants or needs)

Line 8. Who likes to wear (name the things character wants to wear)

Line 9. Who lives in (name the town where character lives)

Line 10. Last Name only

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

Your Bio Poem

_____,'

Who is _____ of _____

Who is _____, _____, and

Who loves to _____ and _____

Who is happiest when _____

Who is afraid of/that _____

Who wants _____

Who likes to wear _____

Who lives in _____

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

Diamante Poem

In the diamond shape, write a Diamante Poem about Dominguita and one of her friends using their character traits. Find a diamante poem lesson at Study.com.

Describes Dominguita

Describes Second Character

Dominguita

adjective adjective

-ing word -ing word -ing word

two words or phrase two words or phrase

-ing word -ing word -ing word

adjective adjective

Other Character

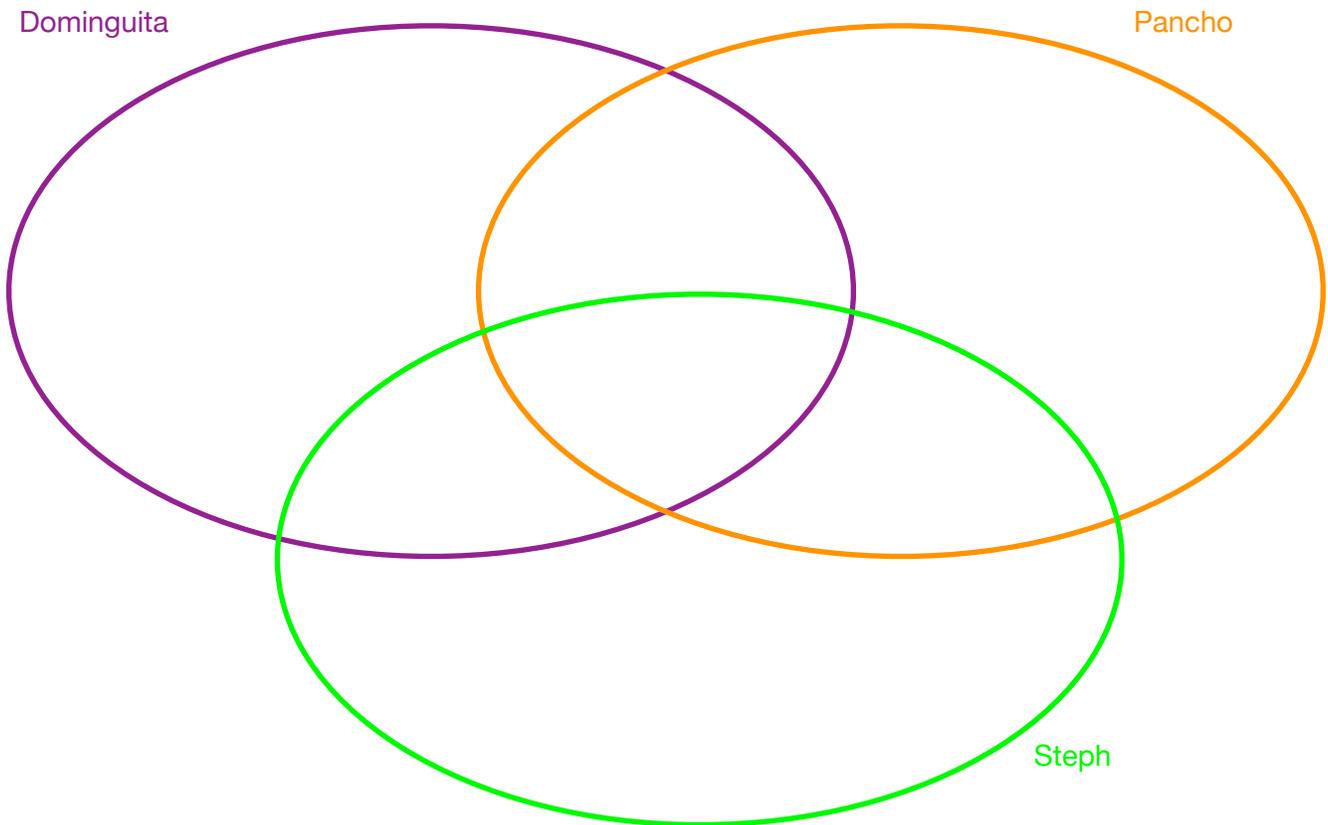
Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

Compare and Contrast Characters Using Venn Diagrams

Cut out these words and place them in the oval belonging to each character. You may add other words to describe the characters. Think about what makes the characters the same and different. Some words may not describe anyone. For a variation, you could include yourself in the diagram instead of one of the characters.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| bossy | honest | loud | real |
| cautious | imaginative | mysterious | smart |
| friendly | kind | open | spunky |
| hard-working | lazy | quiet | thoughtful |
| helpful | lonely | reader | unique |



Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

Character Change: Class Discussion or Writing Prompt

How does Dominguita change in **The Knight of The Cape**? What happens to make her change?

How does Pancho change in **The Knight of The Cape**? What happens to make him change?

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

Traits of a Hero

What is a hero? At the end of the book Dominguita is told that she is a hero, but she does not think she is. List things she did which made her a hero and things which lets you understand why she doesn't believe she is.

| Dominguita is a hero because . . . | Dominguita is not a hero because... |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Setting

Mapping Activities

Activity 1:

Read pages 18-19 of **Knight of the Cape** to understand what the neighborhood looked like and how it felt to live there. Draw a picture of the neighborhood a separate piece of paper. Add as many details as you can using the text as your guide. Explain why Dominguita loved where she lived.

Activity 2:

In a group, reading and remembering **The Knight of the Cape**, locate the places where **The Knight of the Cape** takes place on page 12 of this activity.

Trace Dominguita's walk from her home to Yuca, Yuca on the first day of her quest.

Trace Pancho and Dominguita's walk once they met at Yuca, Yuca.

Dominguita's house is marked by a star.

Yuca, Yuca is marked by a neon green circle.

Place a marker for:

- Fuentes Salvage
- Basketball court
- Fire Station
- Animal Shelter
- Kowalski's Grocer
- Place where Dom and Pancho found Roco

The book doesn't exactly pin point the park where Dom and Pancho met Steph. In book 2, you will learn that this park is called Monroe Park. Can you figure out where Monroe Park may be?

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Setting

Sensory Group Activity

Sensory details appeal to the reader's senses. What details does the author use to help you imagine living in Dominguita's neighborhood? Work with a group to complete this chart about the setting of **The Knight of the Cape**. Present group findings to class.

Dominguita's Neighborhood

| | Yuca, Yuca | Fuentes Salvage | Kowalski's Grocer |
|---------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SIGHT | | | |
| SMELL | | | |
| TASTE | | | |
| TOUCH | | | |
| HEARING | | | |

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Plot

Order Important Events

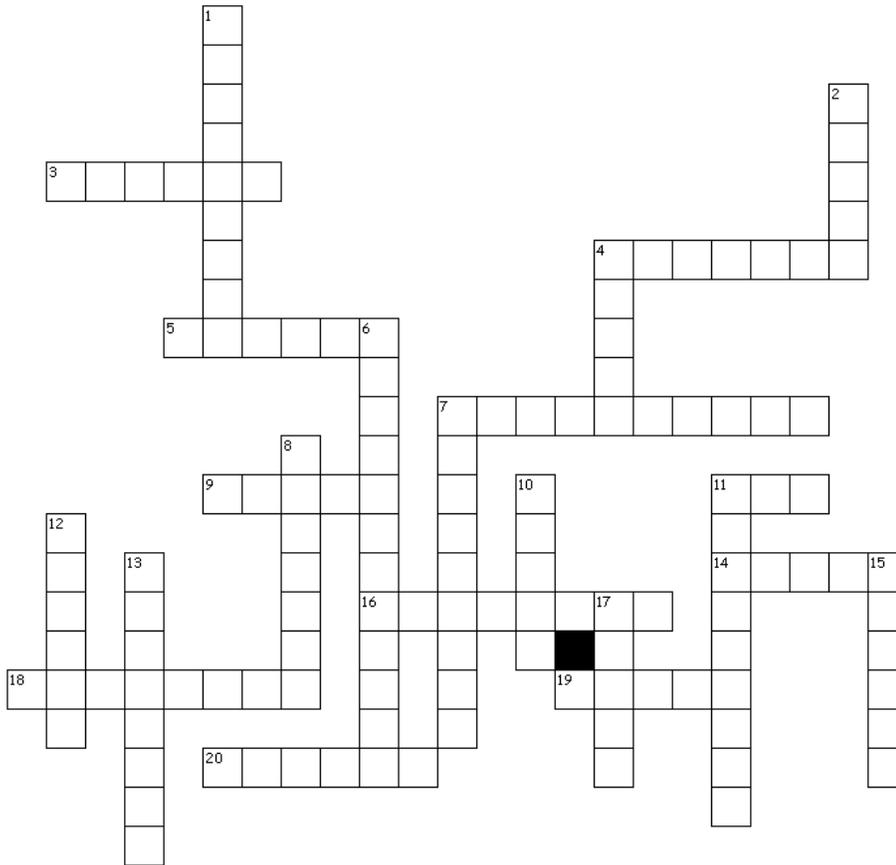
Choose six important events that take place in the book. Write them in order in the boxes below. Cut them out and give them to a friend to put in chronological order.

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

The Knight of the Cape Criss Cross Puzzle



Across

- 3. companion or helper to a knight
- 4. brave
- 5. doing brave deeds
- 7. packs that horses wear to carry gear
- 9. rascal, villain
- 11. make someone a knight
- 14. horse
- 16. kidnapped
- 18. inspires fear
- 19. something worn as protection

Down

- 1. acts with honor
- 2. adventurous journey to accomplish a deed
- 4. keeping watch when you'd normally sleep
- 6. payment
- 7. villain
- 8. junk
- 10. weapon used by knights
- 11. cruel and wicked
- 12. kitchen tool to draw up meat juices
- 13. daring
- 15. young lady
- 17. mistake

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

Similes

When a writer describes something by comparing it to something else, she is using figurative language that creates a picture for the reader to imagine. When she makes a comparison using the word like or as, she is using a simile.

Here are some sentences. Underline the similes. Do they create a picture that helps you to understand the sentence?

The boy was as quiet as a mouse when he entered the library.

Even with glasses, he was as blind as a bat.

When she discovered the answer, her face lit up like a lightbulb.

Look on these pages and find similes in **Definitely Dominguita**.

Page 34 _____

Page 42 _____

page 53 _____

Page 77 _____

Choose one of the similes and illustrate it on the back of this paper.

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

Collective Nouns

Dom is happy that Pancho knows a lot about animals. She thinks he might be able to protect them if they run into a troop of monkeys, a pride of lions, or a crash of rhinos.

Names like troop, pride, and crash, are known as collective nouns. A collective noun names a group of a certain kind of animal.

Can you find other collective nouns that apply to other animals?

Tigers

Caterpillars

Crows

Turtles

Crocodiles

Hawks

Geese

Peacocks

Illustrate your favorite collective group of animals.

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

Spanish Words & Foods

Dominguita and Pancho both speak Spanish as well as English. They can both read in Spanish. Are you bilingual? Do you know anyone that has this superpower? There are many Spanish words and foods in **The Knight of the Cape**.

Draw a line from the Spanish word to its meaning.

ROCINANTE

GRANDMOTHER

YUCA

LORD OF A CASTLE

CAPOTE

ROOT VEGETABLE THAT MAKES TASTY
FRITTERS

DON QUIJOTE

BIG BANANAS

ABUELA

DELICIOUS, STICKY SWEET BUNS

CASTELLAN

HERO OF A BOOK WRITTEN IN EARLY 1600S

PLANTAINS

LITTLE SUNDAY

DOMINGUITA

CAPE

BUÑUELOS

DON QUIJOTE'S HORSE

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

Figurative Language

Circle whether passage shows alliteration, simile or metaphor.

Choose one of these phrases or passages to illustrate.

Alliteration: Repeated sounds

Simile: Drawing a comparison between two things using "like" or "as"

Metaphor: Referring to one thing by mentioning another

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | M | Strutting like he was really going somewhere |
| A | S | M | Played dead like a possum |
| A | S | M | Held the book as if it were holy |
| A | S | M | Puckered Pickles |
| A | S | M | Noble deeds with valiant steeds and damsels in distress |
| A | S | M | Lined up limes and lemons |
| A | S | M | Dom tried to shake the cobwebs from her head |
| A | S | M | The word pinballed inside her head |
| A | S | M | Her eyes became slits |
| A | S | M | As if bringing a baby bird back to its nest |
| A | S | M | Bent like puppets arms |
| A | S | M | As if he'd been called to the principal's office |
| A | S | M | Rows of radishes |
| A | S | M | Camouflaged like a chamaleon |
| A | S | M | Like the wooly worms that tell how long winter will last |
| A | S | M | Shook her head like a puppy who's just gotten out of a pond |
| A | S | M | Arranged apples |
| A | S | M | You were like a lightning bolt |

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Making Connections

Writing Activity

When reading **The Knight of the Cape**, students can be given journal topics that help them make connections with Dominguita. Here are some sample topics:

Think what you would do if a bully teased you. Explain what you would do and give reasons that support your decision.

Talking to Abuela makes Dominguita happy. Do you have a friend or relative that makes you happy? Write about someone who makes you happy. Give reasons why that person makes you happy.

Dominguita is proud of what she is doing. She is proud she can save people who need help. What are some things that make you proud?

Which character would make a good friend? Explain using examples from the story, connecting them to your own life.

Choose a character and explain how you are similar and different to him and her. Use examples from the story and your life.

Write letters to Dominguita. Tell her what you think of her quests and why you think it was important that she was helping those in need rather than damsels. Tell her why you are like her and what you would do in her position.

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

Television Interview

With a partner, pretend you are doing a television interview with Dominguita.

Write questions that you would ask Dominguita.

Exchange the questions with your partner and answer as if you were Dominguita.

Student Name: _____

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

Big Questions / Little Questions

By reading more thoughtfully, students learn to ask big questions, make connections to their personal lives and enrich their vocabulary.

Begin with a group activity:

Ask students to read questions gathered from chapters one and two, and put them into two categories. Help students see that Little Questions require short answers while Big Questions ask students to be more thoughtful and support their answers.

A few questions you can use are:

- *Does Dominguita feel lonely?*
- *Why is Dominguita lonely?*
- *What is the teacher's name?*
- *Who is Abuela?*
- *What does Dominguita's name mean?*
- *How is Dominguita persuasive?*
- *How is Dominguita different from many of her classmates?*
- *What are the problems that need to be solved in the book?*
- *Is Ernie Bublasi a bully?*
- *What does Ernie do to show that he is a gully?*

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

Big Questions / Little Questions

Read chapters _____. Write 3 big questions and 3 little questions. You don't have to write the answers, but think about what you might say as an answer. Did the questions make you think about the stories and the characters? Could you answer them with a yes or a no or just a few words? Be ready to ask your questions when we meet.

Little Questions

1.

2.

3.

Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

Big Questions / Little Questions

Big Questions

1.

2.

3.

Student Name: _____