



T. A. P. in to the Book

Story T.A.P. Connections

by

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Lulu Delacre's book, *US in Progress* connects our students to relevant, emotional, important experiences that reflect the culture of our diverse American schools. These short stories open the minds of all students who are part of our ever changing, exciting society.

These 3 component T.A.P (Think, Apply, Produce) story connections encourage conversation, reflection, critical thinking, and the completion of activities that address one perspective from each story. T.A.P. components are an example of one approach to using this rich book of short stories. T.A.P. can serve as a springboard for other activities to promote comprehension, critical thinking, and writing through interactive experiences.

TAP in to the characters and their stories presented in *US in Progress*, and see student engagement come to life, when reading reflects the life they have come to live.

Story: The Attack

Think	Apply	Produce
Describe an actual event or incident when you knew you (or someone else) was being treated unfairly.	Recall and share what you said or did regarding that incident. OR Share what you should have done, in recalling the event.	Look for an article or OpEd (Opinion / Editorial) from the news that refers to an incident or event where someone was treated unfairly or unjustly. Write your opinion about this article and what you believe should be done.

Story: Selfie

Think	Apply	Produce
Think about the healthiest habit (s) that you have. Now think about the MOST UNHEALTHY habit that you have.	Identify how your healthiest habit positively impacts your daily life. Identify how your most unhealthy habit negatively impacts your life or could in the future.	Create a health plan for 1 week where you make a change to live your life for that week by NOT engaging in your unhealthy habit. What can you do to make a better choice (or choices) for that week?

Story: Güera

Think	Apply	Produce
Think about a time when you first saw someone you know now. This could be a friend or someone from school. Did you make any assumptions before you truly knew them?	The 2 guys from the train (chaparro and muscle guy) make assumptions about Güera based on how she looked. Can you identify someone in your life that you made assumptions about, based on their looks or their behavior?	Divide a sheet of paper in half vertically. On one side write the word, BEFORE, and the other side write the word, AFTER. In the BEFORE side; describe what you thought about a particular person before you knew them. What were your assumptions? On the AFTER side, write how your assumptions changed once you got to know them.

Story: Burrito Man

Think	Apply	Produce
Do people ask you, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Do you have any idea at this point in your life? Think of your personality, talents, subjects at school, or skills you demonstrate that people have commended or mentioned as your strengths? What are you good at in your daily life? What do you enjoy doing?	Can you list some possible jobs or things you might want to do as you become a young adult? Do you have jobs or chores now that you do well?	Pair with another person and brainstorm a list of jobs on paper. Write down as many as you can think of during a 5 minutes. (15 or more) Once you have the list, take turns selecting a job from your list and explaining why you believe you would be successful at that job based on your strengths. Repeat this 3-4 times per person.

Story: Band-Aid

Think	Apply	Produce
Think about yourself being placed in Alina’s situation. You have lived in America and your life is here. In order to remain in America, you will need to live on a ranch with your siblings and many other children. You will go to a new school, live on this large ranch, and be able to stay in America with your siblings, not your parents.	Can you list three possible reasons with your mother to convince her that this is the right thing for her to do. NOW Can you list three possible reasons with your mother to convince her that this is the wrong thing for her to do.	Write your mother a letter using the 3 reasons that make the most sense to you to persuade her to do what you think is best for you!

Story: Firstborn

Think	Apply	Produce
<p>Think about what it means to be bullied by another person. Bullying is an aggressive behavior that is :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. intentionally mean2. uses physical or verbal power to cause harm,3. repeated over a period of time.	<p>Have you ever been a victim of a bully or witnessed someone being bullied? If not, have you ever seen an example of this on television or the internet? Visualize one of those situations in your head.</p>	<p>If you could freeze that experience in your head and give advice to each person in that situation. What would you say to each person? Make a speech bubble and write your advice. Here is what I would say to...</p>

Story: Cubano Two

Think	Apply	Produce
<p>Do you know a person who is close to your own age whose family has the same ethnicity or comes from the same country where many of your relatives were born?</p>	<p>Find someone who fits that description. Ask them if you can do a Feature Family / Friend Fact Sheet using them as your “Feature” friend or family member. (Feature means to “highlight” or “focus” on that person.)</p>	<p>Create a poster that is titled: Feature Friend (or Feature Family Member) Include the following: -Name -Age -Ethnicity/ Country connected to their family -Traditions- things their family does regarding holidays or celebrations -Family Foods and Recipes -Two things you have in common with this person -Any additions you want to add - if you can draw or get a photo of this person add that to the poster</p>

Story: Peacemaker

Think	Apply	Produce
Think about the traits of a person who would be considered a peacemaker. Make a list of the traits you considered.	Did Wilfred have any of the characteristics, traits you listed? Write one he demonstrated from your list and look back in the story to find evidence of that trait from his actions. (list the page or pages)	Write one action that demonstrates you can be or are a peacemaker. What actions have you used in your life that make you a peacemaker? If you do not consider yourself a peacemaker, make a recommendation for an action you might use in the future that could help to bring peace to a situation.

Story: The Secret

Think	Apply	Produce
Esperanza did not know about “the secret” that she was not born in the United States and was therefore not considered a citizen of the country. In order to automatically be a citizen you must have been born on American soil. This meant Esperanza did not have the same rights as her sister who was born here. This was upsetting and felt unfair to her.	Our country is working on making changes to a law that is called the, The Dream Act 2017. This law was created to help children like Esperanza. They were born in another country but lived most of their lives in the USA. Can you think of reasons children like Esperanza should be able to stay in the USA and not have to worry about being asked to leave and return to the country where they were born?	Write a speech to give to our lawmakers to tell them why children like Esperanza should be able to stay in the country. Think of her strong qualities, determination, and her problem solving skills and use this as evidence in your speech. You may choose to write your own opening or use the one below... <i>Good day, honorable lawmakers and members of Congress. My name is _____ and I am here to let you know why we need The Dream Act. Let me tell you the story of Esperanza, who is only one of thousands who should remain in the USA...</i>

Story: Pickup Soccer

Think	Apply	Produce
Do you know someone in your family or neighborhood you think is rich? What makes you consider them to be rich? Do you believe money gives you more rights?	Hugo was not the character considered to have the most money but he was able to handle the pick up game situation. How did Hugo work it out? What “means” or actions did Hugo use to resolve the situation?	Write a set of rules or criteria that should be posted on this playground to ensure all groups have access to use the facility.

Story: Saturday School

Think	Apply	Produce
Can you recall a situation in school that made you feel uncomfortable?	How did it work out or was it not resolved? Consider how Sandra communicated the way uncomfortable way she felt?	List 3 ways or suggestions individuals might use to communicate their discomfort to remedy their situation. Look back in the story and see if you can identify the ways Sandra and her mom were able to communicate and make some compromises. Write the ideas they used to remedy this uncomfortable situation. Add one of your own ideas to solve an uncomfortable situation.

Story: 90,000 Children

Think	Apply	Produce
Think about Romina and journey to come to the U.S. with just a note in her pocket. What kind of challenges could you imagine she might have or could have faced along the way?	Consider the kind of courage and bravery she must have had. What types of thoughts do you think she must have had throughout her journey? If you could have “been in her head”, what might she have been thinking?	It is now your job to interview Romina after she has settled in with her aunt in Providence, Rhode Island. Write 5 questions you would want to ask her.