Discussion Questions: *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales

These discussion questions are for older readers. Younger readers and their educators may find the [Educator and student guide by Holiday House](https://www.holidayhouse.com/educator-student-guide) (PDF) useful.

1. Put yourself in the position of the young mother narrating this book. How do you think you would feel crossing that bridge to a new country? What is the significance of the words “Adiós Corazón” at the bottom of that page?
2. Have you ever found yourself in a situation similar to the one faced by the young mother in this book? Talk about that experience and what you most wished for at that time.
3. “Suspicious,” “Improbable,” “Unbelievable,” “Surprising,” and “Unimaginable.” These are the words that the narrator uses to describe her reaction to the public library the first time she walks inside. Why do you think she chooses those words in particular? What words would you use?
4. In what ways does the public library provide assistance and hope to the mother in her moment of need?
5. Did you notice that the books in the library are actual titles of real books? Are you familiar with any of those books? Are there any other books that you would have wanted to see on those shelves?
6. The narrator says the library is “a place we had never seen before.” Why might she say that?
7. In the last two pages, the mother is drawing. Why is that significant?
8. The illustrations in this book combine drawing, painting and collage. How does the style of Yuyi Morales’ artwork resonate with and amplify the themes in her book?
9. The author of this book uses the term “Dreamers” a bit differently than we see it in the media these days. What does the term mean to the author and what do you think when you hear that word?
10. Yuyi Morales comments in the note at the end of the book about how she felt almost as though she did not exist because when she first came to the U.S. she could not speak English. In what ways does language bind us together and how can it separate us?

*Discussion questions courtesy of Mark Smith, State Librarian and Director, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.*