# Graphic Biographies

I am so excited to be bringing you this Graphic Biography resource!

Kids LOVE graphic novels...so the team at Out of This World Literacy got together to bring teachers and students Graphic Biographies!

There are countless ways to use the Graphic Biography and 35 support pages included. Here are just a few ideas...

- Guided Reading (complete lesson included)
- Whole group read aloud
- Reading center activities
- Partner reading
- Literature Circle
- Independent Reading Fun

## What Is Included:

1. 2-page Graphic Biography with custom illustrations by Andrea Bufford.
2. Google Digital Versions!
3. Answer Keys
4. 3 Comprehension and Vocabulary student pages
5. 6 Writing Prompts
6. 3 Response Forms for After Reading
7. Step-by-Step How to Draw: Margarita Engle + Palm Tree
8. 6 Blank Graphic Template Pages for Students to Create their Own Graphic Stories
9. COMPLETE Guided Reading Lesson with Comprehension Check and 5 Teacher Planning Pages
10. 21 Open-ended Discussion Questions to Ask Students After Reading.
11. 19 Open-ended Discussion Statements for Students to Answer After Reading
12. 8 Specific Question Cards with Custom Graphics
13. 44 Open-Ended Discussion Question Cards

**Thank you so much to these amazing artists, whose work is found in this resource!**






# GRAPHIC BIOGRAPHY

# Margarita Engle

DIGITAL LINKS INCLUDED!

## Margarita Engle

Cuban/American Poet

It all began in a dreamlike blend of imagination and reality. When two artists, from two different countries, speaking two different languages, allowed their hearts to be woven together in love by the warm, fragrant island breezes and dancing coconut palms of Cuba.

Four years later, on a sunny autumn day in Pasadena, California, Margarita Engle entered into the world. Half American, half Cuban - half city, half island: with eyes blue-green-gray like ocean waves in changeable weather.

Growing up, Margarita spent her summers on the lush island of Cuba living and learning from her relatives. She ran wild and free on her abuelita's farm, investigating interesting insects and absorbing ancestral tales from the older women of the family.

But, the deeper Cuba took root in her soul, the harder it was for Margarita to know where she belonged.

"Sometimes, I feel like a rolling wave of the sea, a wave that can only belong in between the two solid shores."

"THE FIRST STORY I EVER WRITE IS A BRIGHT CRAYON PICTURE OF A DANCING TREE, THE BRANCHES TOSSED BY WILD AND WINDY."

"I DRAW MYSELF STANDING BESIDE THE TREE, WITH A COLORFUL PARROT SOARING ABOVE ME AND A MAGICAL TURTLE CLASPED IN MY HAND."

"AND TWO YELLOW WINGS FLUTTERING ON THE PROUD SHOULDERS OF MY RUFFLED CUBAN RUMBA DANCER'S FANCY DRESS."

"IN MY CALIFORNIA KINDERGARTEN CLASS, THE TEACHER SCOLDS ME: REAL TREES DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT."

...but I know better!

Margarita's experience with the wild nature of Cuba didn't just inspire her passion for writing but also inspired her to study and observe its plants and animals. These observations resulted in her educational study of biology and agronomy.

"...else can reach the words that are completely forever mine."

Margarita has written over two dozen (24) books that include a poetic memoir, and many historical novels in verse.

(HER PERSONAL STORY) (WRITING WITH A RHYTHM)

...Many of her books are written in both English and Spanish, because she is bilingual.

In 2019, she became the first Latino to win the Newbery Honor.

She served as the Young People's Poet from 2017 - 2019.

...Most of what she writes is themed around Cuban heritage and nature.

"I love to write about young people who made hopeful choices in situations that seemed hopeless."

### Some Greats:

- The Surrender Tree
- Dancing Hands
- Singing With Elephants
- The Firefly Letters
- Enchanted Air
- Drum Dream Girl

In 2013, Margarita shared a book she had written called, "When You Wander," about a search-and-rescue dog that is trained to save people that become lost.

"I am a graduate of sniffing school. I practice sniffing every day, just in case you ever go out in the woods and lose your way. You smell like wonderful cinnamon cookie smiles and your special indoor forest of toys and hugs and books."

Margarita was inspired to write this story one day when...

"That incident helped me realize that children can often communicate with dogs more easily than with adults."

Margarita Engle

Margarita currently lives in central California and assists her husband in training search - and - rescue dogs. She continues to delight her readers with her woven words of wonder and has a new book releasing soon!

Coming Soon!

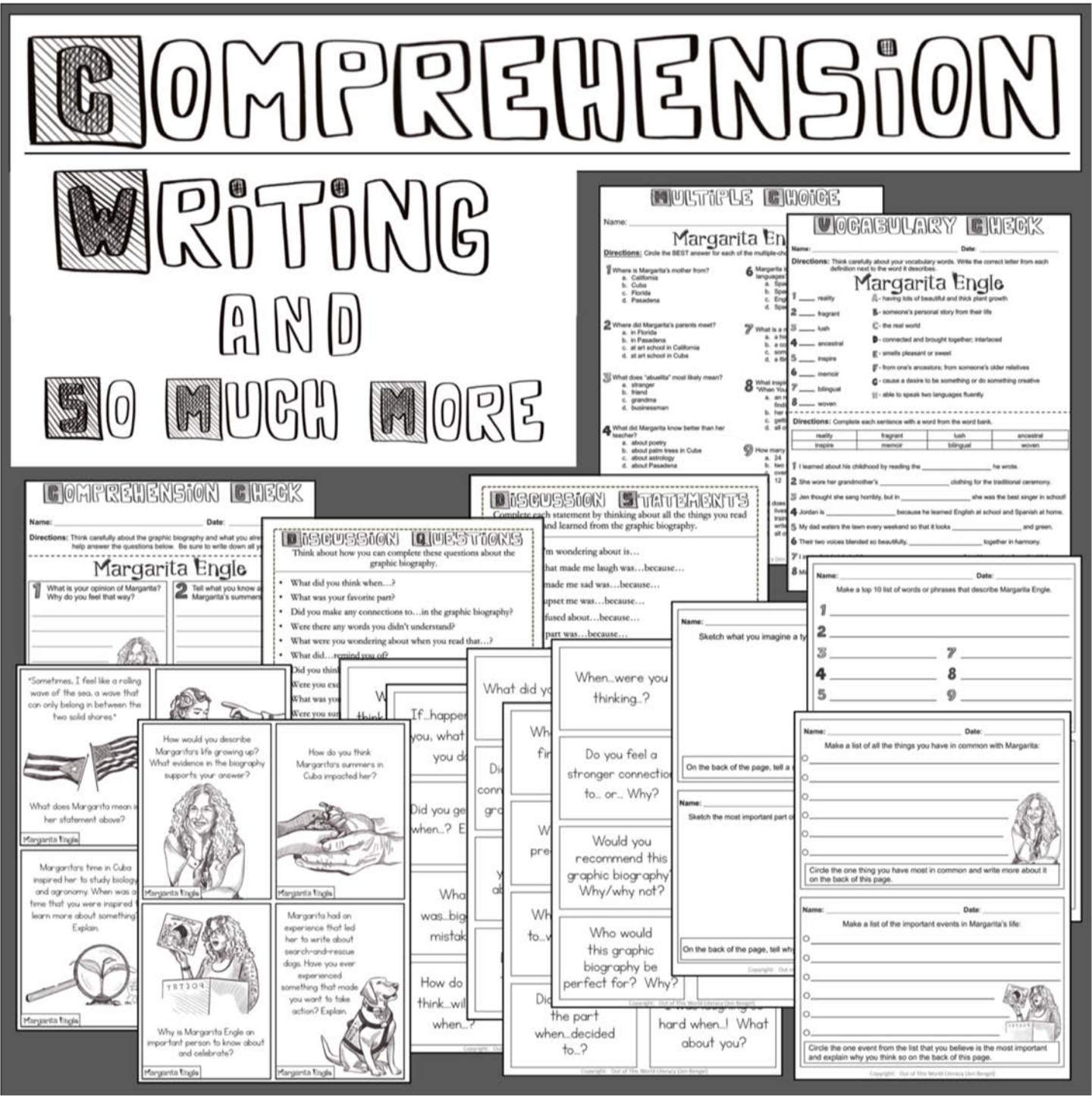
On an island of music in a city of drumbeats the drum dream girl dreamed of pounding.

Her hands seemed to fly as they rippled rapped and pounded all the rhythms of her drum dreams...

"Books are enchanted. Books help me travel. Books help me breathe. When I climb a tree, I take a book with me. When I walk home from school..."

Out of this World LITERACY

35 SUPPORT PAGES INCLUDED


COMPREHENSION
WRITING
AND
SO MUCH MORE
MULTIPLE CHOICE
VOCABULARY CHECK
COMPREHENSION CHECK
DISCUSSION STATEMENTS
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Think about how you can complete these questions about the graphic biography.
What did you think when…?
What was your favorite part?
Did you make any connections to…in the graphic biography?
Were there any words you didn't understand?
What were you wondering about when you read that…?
Margarita Engle
Make a top 10 list of words or phrases that describe Margarita Engle.
Make a list of all the things you have in common with Margarita:
Circle the one thing you have most in common and write more about it on the back of this page.
Make a list of the important events in Margarita's life:
Circle the one event from the list that you believe is the most important and explain why you think so on the back of this page.
"Sometimes, I feel like a rolling wave of the sea, a wave that can only belong in between the two solid shores."
How would you describe Margarita's life growing up? What evidence in the biography supports your answer?
How do you think Margarita's summers in Cuba impacted her?
Why is Margarita Engle an important person to know about and celebrate?
Margarita had an experience that led her to write about search-and-rescue dogs. Have you ever experienced something that made you want to take action? Explain.
When…were you thinking…?
Do you feel a stronger connection to… or… Why?
Would you recommend this graphic biography? Why/why not?
Who would this graphic biography be perfect for? Why?
Sketch what you imagine a ty
Sketch the most important part o
On the back of the page, tell a
On the back of the page, tell wh
the part when…decided to…?
hard when…! What about you?

# GUIDED READING

Out of this World LITERACY

## GUIDED READING LESSON

Margarita Engle



**Quick Notes Guide:** Use the scale to quickly take notes as you work through the different parts of the lesson.

1 *(no response or incorrect)* 2 *(Partial)* 3 *(Satisfactory)* 4 *(Above Average)*

| Group members | Before Reading | During Reading | After Reading |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

**Step 1.** The Intro.

*Use as a guide to start your introduction:*
"Today we are going to read a biography about a poet named Margarita Engle. The format of the story is like a graphic novel. The graphic pictures in the biography will help us learn more about Margarita's life. As we read, let's pay close attention to the illustrations to help us with our reading comprehension. Let's read to find out about Margarita's life and her love for plants, Cuba, and poetry!"

**Step 2.** Read the Text.

*How will the group read the text? (Circle One)*
Teacher read · Choral read · Silent read · Partner read · Echo read · Other: _____

*Reteach and Refocus (keep track of which students you are reading with)*
Student: _____
Student: _____

OR...

*Running Record (Note Details Below)*

**Step 3.** Share Your Thinking.

**1:** What is the first thing you are thinking after reading? Tell me more.

**2:** Which part of the graphic biography did you like best? Why was that your favorite part?

**3:** What is your opinion of Margarita Engle? Share reasons for your opinion.

**Step 4.** Direct Text Questions.

**1:** Look on page 1. What life events impacted Margarita the most? Share your thoughts.

**2:** What is a memoir? What do you guess Margarita included in her memoir?

**3:** Look on page 2. Retell what Margarita has accomplished and what she does now.

**Step 5.** Targeted Word Study.

*R blends*
dreamlike fragrant
draw from
drum free
bright green
branches growing

*Recreate the chart for word Study activity.*

| | Meaning in Text |
|---|---|
| fragrant | *smelling good or pleasing* |
| dreamlike | *like in a dream; not real* |

**Step 6.** Writing Response.

*Have students copy the writing prompt and respond.*
Make a list of things you can learn from reading about Margarita's life. Circle the biggest lesson and write more about it.

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## GUIDED READING

Date Met: _____ Book Title: _____ Level: _____

| | Fluency | Comp. | Word Study |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 Very Choppy | 1 Incorrect | 1 Incorrect |

## GUIDED READING

## GUIDED READING

## GUIDED READING

Month: _____

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

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# HOW TO DRAW

HOW TO DRAW

HOW TO DRAW

STEP BY STEP



Margarita Engle and Palm Tree

STEP 2:
shoulder lines
two neck lines
NECK LINE

STEP 3:
Draw guidelines 1-6

STEP 5:
Draw the mouth and nose.

STEP 6:
Add Margarita's shirt lines and face lines

STEP 7:
Draw Margarita's curly hair

STEP 8:
Add flowers to her jacket

STEP 9:
Erase all original pencil lines

You Did It!

3
DRAW FIVE CURVED LINES AT THE TOP

4
ADD JAGGED
BELOW THE CURVE

STEP 5
CIRCLES
DRAW THREE CIRCLES FOR COCONUTS

STEP 6
ADD ZIG-ZAG
FOR GRASS

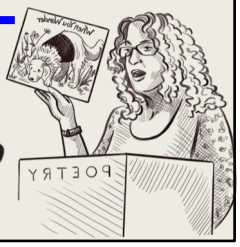
# GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!



## The Graphic Biography

## Margarita Engle




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Multiple Choice | Comprehension Check | Vocabulary Check |
| Writing Prompts | Response Forms | How To Drawing |
| Graphic Templates | Guided Reading Lesson | Discussion Questions |
| Discussion Statements | Question Cards | |

**LINKS ACTIVE IN PAID VERSION**

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