

# Queen of Tejano Music: Selena

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Musical History, Changemaker

**Book Brief:** Selena Quintanilla's music career began at the age of nine when she started singing in her family's band. But Selena faced a challenge: People said that she would never make it in Tejano music, which was dominated by male performers. Selena was determined to prove them wrong.

**Author:**  
Silvia Lopez  
**Illustrator:**  
Paola Escobar



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Read the title. What do you notice about the woman in the photo?

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

**Vocabulary:** [Vocabulary Guide](#)

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students if they have ever felt discouraged to be able to reach their goals. Allow students to Think-Pair-Share.

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read Selena’s story, think about how she made Tejano history through hard work and determination.”

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What age was Selena when she started performing?
- Why was Tejano (Tex-Mex) music hard for the Quintanilla children?
- Who did Selena fall in love with?
- What did the reporters say when interviewing Selena?
- What award did Selena win at the Grammy Awards?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** How does Selena reach her goal of becoming a Tejano music star? What steps did she take?

**Extending Our Thinking:** What goal do you want to achieve in the future? What steps would you need to take to reach that goal? Talk to a partner, and then write about your goals for the future.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.