

# Islandborn

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Hispanic Heritage

**Book Brief:** When Lola's teacher asks the class to draw where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited except Lola, who can't remember The Island since she left as a baby. With help from her family and friends, she embarks on an imaginative journey that reveals her family's story and teaches her that even if she doesn't remember a place, it's still part of her.

**Author:**  
Junot Díaz

**Illustrator:**  
Leo Espinosa



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students, "think of a time you wished you could remember something but you couldn't. How did you handle it?"

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read today, listen for how Lola learned about where she was born."

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What did Lola learn about her country from her neighbors?
- What figurative language does the author and illustrator create when describing the island's beaches. How does this add to the story?
- Why do you think the author is comparing "the monster" to a bat?
- Describe why Mrs. Obi compares the class pictures to windows.

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** Lola learned about the island from community and family members. How did learning about the island change Lola's identity?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Lola discovers that she has a piece of the island in her. Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), have students draw and write a picture about the country they are from just like Lola had to.

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.