

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora
Discussion Guide
Grades 5-8

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Have any new buildings been built in your town or city? How do you feel about it?
- Which is better - new things or old things? Why?
- What does “family is community, community is family” mean to you?
- Frontload vocabulary for chapters 1-3 (see vocabulary guide)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections. Prompt students to provide support for their answers from the text.

- Why do Carmen and her father join the Zamora family for Sunday dinner? (Ch. 1)
- Describe Arturo’s family. (Ch. 1, Ch. 2)
- What is it like working at Arturo’s family’s restaurant? Would you want to work there? (Ch. 2)
- Why is Arturo so awkward around Carmen? (Ch. 3)
- Describe Arturo’s friends, Mop and Bren. How are they good friends to him? (Ch. 4, Ch. 9, Ch. 19)
- Who is Wilfrido Pipo? How is Wilfrido causing a problem for Arturo’s family? (Ch. 5, Ch. 7)
- What is Carmen’s plan? (Ch. 6) What do Carmen and Arturo learn at Wilfrido’s office? (Ch. 7)
- Why does Arturo want to tell Abuela about Wilfrido’s plan? Why does Carmen think that’s not a good idea? (Ch. 8)
- What is in the box that Abuela gives Arturo? (Ch. 10) Why does Abuela give Arturo the box? (Ch. 11)
- What is the Zamora family’s plan to save the restaurant? Do you think the plan will work? Why or why not? (Ch. 12)
- Why does Arturo’s mom call an emergency family meeting? (Ch. 13)
- What is the Zamora’s plan to discourage Wilfrido’s development? (Ch. 14)
- What does Arturo learn from Abuelo’s letters? (Ch. 14)
- What happens at the festival? (Ch. 15)
- What happens when Arturo tells Carmen how he feels? (Ch. 15)
How is Wilfrido’s idea of family different than the Zamora’s idea of family? (Ch. 16)
- What is Arturo’s total, epic fail? (Ch. 17)
- Do you think the family should fight for their restaurant? Do you agree with Aunt Tuti or with Arturo’s mom? (Ch. 19)
How do Arturo’s family and the community honor Abuela? (Ch. 21, Ch. 22, Ch. 23)
- What is Arturo’s mom’s argument for keeping the restaurant open? (Ch. 25)
- Do you agree with the title of the book - do you think Arturo had an epic fail? (epilogue)

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After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Arturo's family finds a cause in their community that is important to them and stands up for it. Think of something in your community that you think needs more attention and make a poster or pamphlet giving information about it and showing support.

Compare Arturo to his Abuela and his Abuelo. What traits does he get from each of his grandparents?

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.