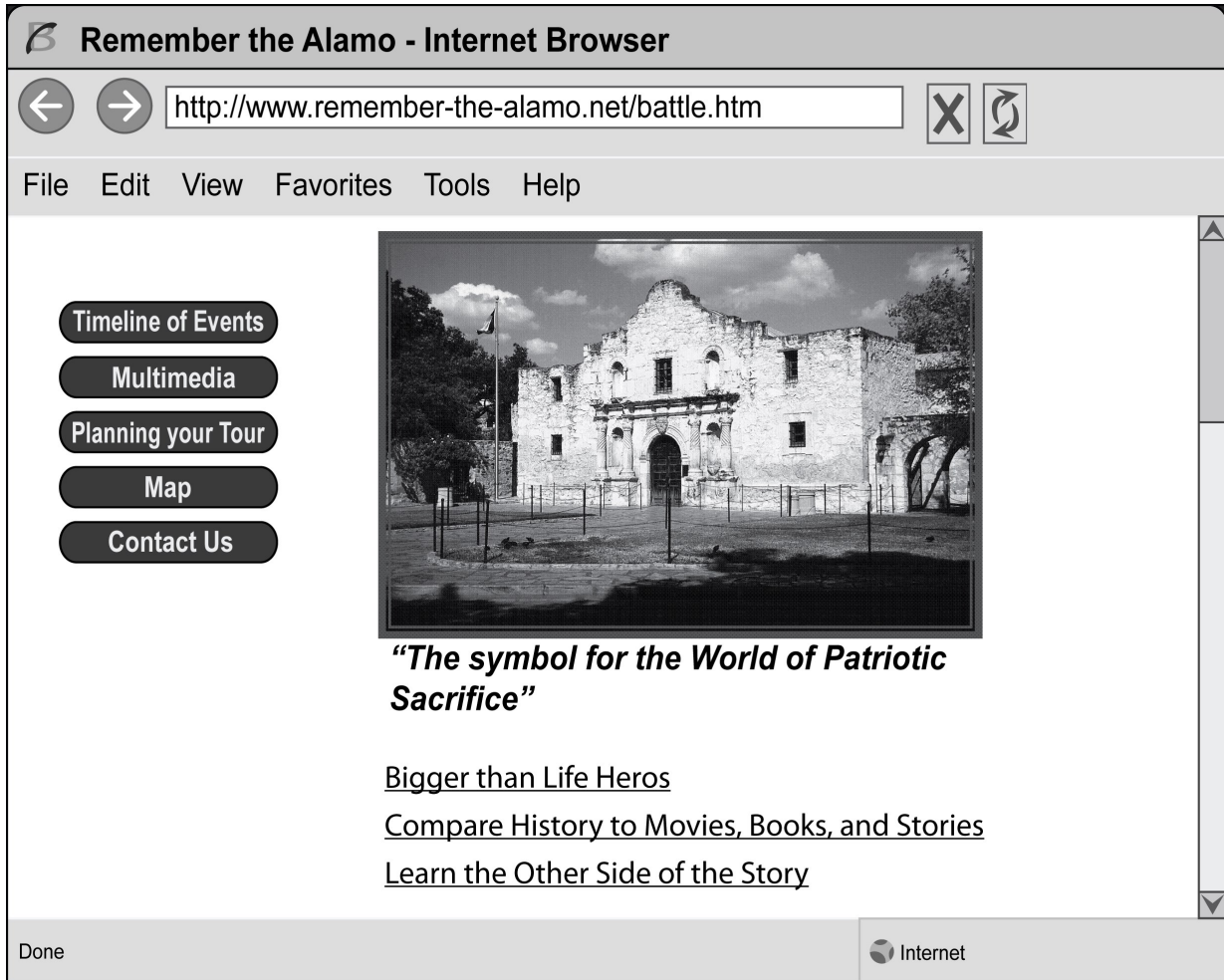


CISD Grade 5 ELAR Unit 02A

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Source - *Girl of the Alamo, American Battlefields The Alamo*, [www.tamu.edu/faculty](http://www.tamu.edu/faculty) about "The Story of Enrique Esparza" as told in *The San Antonio Light*.



### **A Survivor**

*Enrique Esparza was the son of Alamo defender Gregorio Esparza and Ana Salazar Esparza. Enrique, his mother, and siblings survived the attack by the Mexican army. In 1902, Enrique shared his diary of experiences with a reporter.*

Thursday, February 20, 1836

1) I awake in the morning with thoughts of my 13th birthday. My grandmother sent me a journal for my 13th birthday. I smell the cedar pencils and touch the cover of my new diary. This is my birthday present. I have not seen my grandmother in two years. She knows that I enjoy writing. I have sent several letters to her about living in Texas.

2) Yesterday, during my school lessons, the class heard the creaky supply wagons

come through the muddy streets. My home is in the DeWitt's Colony. It is the western most colony, and supplies only come twice a year. The supplies are imported from New Orleans by ship before being loaded onto wagons. The diary and pencils had come by one of those wagons a few days before. There is much activity around the ships these days.

3) I was eager to see the men unload barrels of molasses, flour, sugar, dried apples, and other things. My mother was always so excited to see the bolts of calico cloth and brightly colored silk ribbons. My sisters would be hoping for new dresses from the colorful bolts of fabric. I might get a new shirt for school. Many cases of guns are being unloaded from the ships. There is talk about disagreements with Mexico.

4) I live in Texas, but Mexico wants us off their land. My parents settled in Texas a few years ago. They wanted to own the land and grow our own food. However, Mexico had other ideas. They also wanted this for the people of Mexico. This is a difficult time for Texas.

Sunday, February 23, 1836

5) I wake up to a thick fog across the woods and river. I hear a pop, pop, pop of rifles. While walking to the window, I jump at the sound of a loud boom. My father says that it is the sound of the old cannon. I think it is the Mexican army coming for the land. I have heard my father talk about the large Mexican army. I overhear him discuss the fight for land. He keeps saying that we will see the army march over the nearby hills. Father moves our family into the Alamo.

Wednesday, February 26, 1836

6) I watch my mom and the other women cook. They pat balls of moistened corn into thin, round shapes called tortillas. The tortillas cook in a flat skillet. Then, I help fill the tortillas with peppered beans and take the food to the other children. As I stuff the small tortilla into my mouth, my mom pats my head and says that I must be a bottomless pit. While we finish the meager meal, I hear Mexican bugles blaring outside the walls. Black smoke billows into the sky.

Saturday, March 1, 1836

7) Father tells us that the Mexican army is near. He describes the numbers of soldiers riding horses. They are approaching the fort very quickly. He asks us to hide in the

shadows of the room with our mother. He says that there is no time to flee the fort. We must be brave and stay at the fort.

Tuesday, March 4, 1836

8) We feel the ground rumble under our feet. The cannon fire seems closer every day. The days are long. We must stay busy inside the fort. The adults whisper about the thousands of Mexican soldiers advancing toward the fort. There are less than two hundred men in the fort. How will we be able to survive such a battle!

Thursday, March 6, 1836

9) I am sleeping on the cots with my sisters. The cannons are firing. I hear my mother say, "Gregorio, the soldiers have jumped the wall. The fight is beginning. Be careful."

10) My father gets up and takes his rifle. He leaves the room to return to the fight. My two sisters and I huddle under the blankets. My mother and I hear soldiers shouting about jumping the wall. The men are fighting so close that we hear them strike each other. It is so dark in the area that we can't see anything. We huddle in the corners of the fort. Mother embraces my sisters as they begin to cry.

11) Finally, we hear the bullets coming closer. The soldiers begin shooting through the dark into the room where we are. I hear a cry in the darkness. A boy who is wrapped in blankets is hit by a bullet. I run to him, but it is too late. The boy has died. The Mexican army fires into the room several more times. Huddled together, my family shakes in fear.

Friday, March 7, 1836

12) The crying stops. We do not hear the rifles firing or men shouting. It is a miracle that none of my family is hit by the cannons or guns. My uncle comes back in the night to tell us about the fight. He explains how my father died in the fight with Santa Anna. I will never see him again.

13) After the fight, Santa Anna gives my uncle permission to get my father's body. My uncle finds my father in the thickest part of the fight. My mother, sisters, and I survived the battle of the Alamo, but we have lost our precious father.

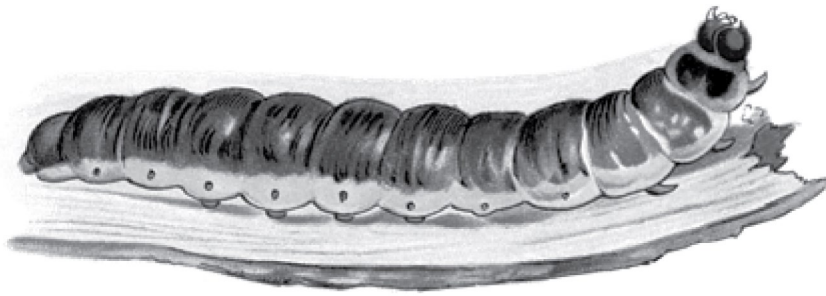


- 1 In Paragraph 2 the root **port** in the word **imported** means -
- A opposite
  - B bring to
  - C side of ship
  - D not moving
- 2 What is the meaning of the word **bolts** in Paragraph 3?
- F runs away
  - G sliding lock
  - H short, heavy arrow
  - J roll of goods
- 3 In Paragraph 5, the author uses sensory language in the sentence, *I hear a pop, pop, pop of rifles*. Why might the author have chosen to word the sentence in that way?
- A so that the reader could visualize the rifle
  - B so that the reader could imagine what the woods and river looked like
  - C so that the reader could imagine what the event sounded like
  - D so that the reader could learn more about Father
- 4 In Paragraph 6, what does Enrique's mom mean when she says that he is a **bottomless pit**?
- F Enrique always eats tortillas.
  - G Enrique is helpful with the cooking.
  - H Enrique would crawl through tunnels.
  - J Enrique could eat so much food.
- 5 In Paragraph 7 what is the meaning of the word **flee**?
- A small insect
  - B begin cleaning
  - C escape
  - D mosquito
- 6 Why did the author of the diary include the Tuesday, March 4th, entry?
- F The entry lets the reader know that not every minute was filled with worry.
  - G The entry explains how to prepare a meal with tortillas.
  - H The entry is important to the battle sequence.
  - J The entry compares the food of the Mexican army with Texan foods.

- 7** What is a possible lesson learned about freedom in this selection?
- A** People disagree and go to war.
  - B** Freedom may come at a very high cost.
  - C** Death causes unhappiness.
  - D** Children can't be a part of a fight for freedom.
- 8** What is the main idea of Enrique Esparza's diary entries?
- F** A young boy tells about his experiences during the final days at the Alamo.
  - G** A young boy plays a big part in the battle for the Alamo.
  - H** A young boy celebrates his birthday at the Alamo.
  - J** A young boy meets Santa Anna.
- 9** What is the point of view provided on the sample web page for the Alamo seen at the beginning of this test?
- A** The Alamo is a tourist attraction in Texas.
  - B** The Alamo is a universal symbol of patriotism others should learn from.
  - C** The Battle of the Alamo was a hard-fought siege lost by the Texans to the Mexican army.
  - D** Visiting the Alamo should be required of every Texas school child.
- 10** What is the webmaster's purpose in choosing his words and styling the links at the bottom of the webpage?
- F** He wanted to provide a shortcut for where to find information in the website.
  - G** He wanted to encourage viewers to visit other parts of the website.
  - H** He wanted to make the Alamo site seem exciting.
  - J** All of the above support this purpose.







**A Caterpillar's Voice**  
**A play adapted from the African folktale.**

*As the curtain comes up, a caterpillar is inching along the rugged landscape when he spies an inviting cave. As he crosses the threshold, he is impressed with the comfortable furniture and makes himself at home.*

Caterpillar: What a fabulous home to have! I think I'll stay awhile. *(Caterpillar acts shocked.)* My voice sounds enormous in here! I sound like I am a creature bigger than the biggest of creatures. Yes, I like it here. I think I'll stay. *(He drifts asleep.)*

*(HARE enters the stage and looks around at the ground around his front door.)*

Hare: What's going on here? These imprints look like tracks, and they lead right into my home. I think someone's in there. *(calls out)* Who is in my cave?

Caterpillar: *(leaps up in surprise from his nap, in a soft voice)* I bet I can fool the hare into thinking I am the grandest of all creatures. *(in a big voice)* It is I! I am the biggest, strongest, and most fearsome of all creatures. Go away before I trounce you into dust!

Hare: *(hopping about crying)* Oh dear! How am I going to get my home back? I am but a small hare.

*(Jackal enters carrying some food he has collected, as if to bring it to his friend, Hare.)*

Hare: Oh Jackal, I am so grateful to see you. A terrible creature has taken possession of my home? Do you think you can get him to flee and leave me alone?

Jackal: Sure, I can try. *(calls out)* Who is in there? This is my friend Hare's home. Get out!

Caterpillar: *(acting at first like he is thinking of what to do, turns to face the audience and in a loud voice yells)* It is I! I am the biggest, strongest, and most fearsome of all

creatures. Go away before I trounce you into dust!

Jackal: *(turning to Hare)* I'm sorry, Hare. What could I do against such a fierce predator? I must go now!

*(Jackal exits.)*

*(Hare runs off stage and returns pulling a leopard, a rhinoceros, and an elephant with him to the door of his cave.)*

Hare: Oh, please, Leopard. Do you think you can get the creature out of my home?

Leopard: Oh, definitely. I am big and strong myself. Just the mention of me makes others quiver in fear. *(calls out)* Who is in my friend's home?

Caterpillar: It is I! I am the biggest, strongest, and most fearsome of all creatures. Go away before I trounce you into dust!

*(Leopard, Rhinoceros, and Elephant all shrink back. Leopard runs off stage. Hare moves up to Rhinoceros who puts up his hands.)*

Rhinoceros: I wouldn't dare challenge this fearsome creature. His very voice can make the Earth tremble and veer off of its axis.

*(Rhinoceros leaves in the opposite direction.)*

Hare: *(turning to Elephant with his hands in a pleading position)* We were talking about how big and strong you are.

Elephant: I heard the creature's menacing claim. Even I cannot dare to approach him. My family needs me.

*(Elephant exits the stage slowly.)*

Hare: *(wringing his hands)* Now what I am going to do?

Frog: *(enters from where the rhinoceros had left)* Hare, what is wrong? I saw rhinoceros on the road, and he said you were having an insurmountable problem. Something is in your house?

Hare: Oh, it is just terrible. I am trying to go inside my home, but there is something in my cave. I asked all of my friends to help me, but they were all afraid and

ran away. Now, I don't know what to do.

Frog: Have you tried to talk to the creature?

Hare: Oh, yes. We all did, but he just yells back at us in his enormous, terrifying voice.

Frog: I know I am not as big as Jackal, Leopard, Rhino, or Elephant, but can I try, too?

Hare: Be my guest. You will see that what I've said is undoubtedly true.

Frog: *(going nearer to the cave, cups his hand beside his mouth to call out)* Who's in the cave of my friend, Hare?

Caterpillar: It is I! I am the biggest, strongest, and most fearsome of all creatures. Go away before I trounce you into dust!

Frog: *(Moving now further inside the cave, Frog yells again.)* I am the strongest of all creatures, and I have come at last to help my friend. I am the one who destroys those who destroy the rhino and trounces those that trounce the elephant.

Caterpillar: *(biting his nails and trembling as if worried, in a whisper)* That was the most fearsome voice I have ever heard! I had better escape while I can. *(He gets off the chair and crawls out the side of the cave trying not to be seen.)*

Hare: *(spotting him and running over)* What? All this trouble and it was YOU in the cave?

*(Jackal, Leopard, Rhinoceros, and Elephant enter.)*

Jackal: Wow, it was only a caterpillar? Why did his voice sound so gigantic?

Leopard: I feel so foolish, I should have known better.

Hare: I cannot believe that you were all terrified of a little caterpillar.

Frog: I think you were scared too, Hare.

Hare: No, no, not of a Caterpillar. It was only that thunderous voice. Caterpillar, how did you get that big voice? Speak to me.

Caterpillar: *(in a meek voice)* Well, this cave was very cozy. And when I spoke, there was a wonderful echo! It made me feel important and gave me courage. I will be

moving on now, though. Good-bye.

*(Caterpillar creeps away.)*

Elephant: Can you believe it? All of us were frightened of that small, little caterpillar!  
The problem wasn't nearly as big as we made it out to be.

- 12** Which of the following accurately represents the author's intended lesson or moral in this drama?
- F** Many of our fears seem much more frightening than they really are.
  - G** It is easy to fool your friends.
  - H** You have to solve your most frightening problems by yourself.
  - J** An echo is a useful thing.

**13**

**Men-ace me-nas**

**v:** a show of intention to inflict harm  
**n:** threat; one that represents a danger;  
**n:** an annoying person  
**Synonyms:** hazard, risk, threat, trouble

Use the dictionary entry above to answer the following question.

Which of the following is the meaning of the word **menacing** as it is used in the play:

*I heard the creature's **menacing** claim. Even I cannot dare to approach him.*

- A** inflicting
- B** threatening
- C** annoying
- D** risking

- 14** What did Frog do that supports the inference that he knew the "big voice" came from an echo?
- F** He told Hare he had an insurmountable problem.
  - G** He says that he knows he is not as big as the other friends.
  - H** He tells Hare that he was afraid too.
  - J** He moved into the cave to make his threat.

**15** In the drama, the playwright uses the sentence, "*His very voice can make the Earth tremble and veer off of its axis.*" How does this phrase add emphasis to the fear Rhinoceros is feeling?

- A** He is saying that the Earth turns on an axis.
- B** He is saying that even something as huge as the Earth would be affected.
- C** He is saying that the Earth will continue to spin no matter what happens.
- D** He is saying that the Earth has more courage than he does.