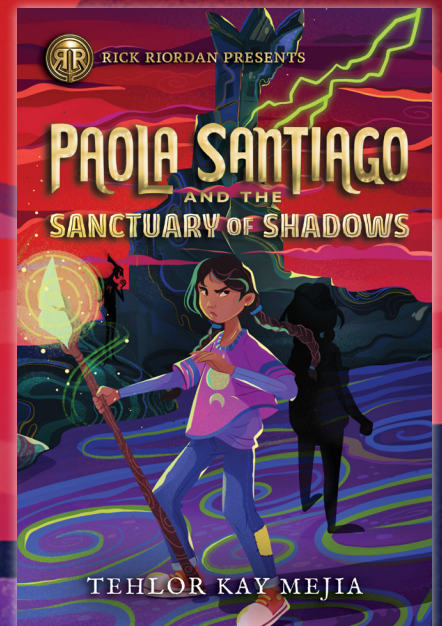
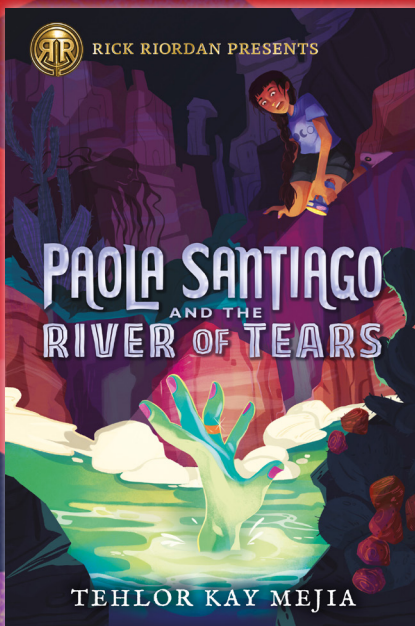




RICK RIORDAN PRESENTS

PAOLA SANTIAGO

By Tehlor Kay Mejia



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION

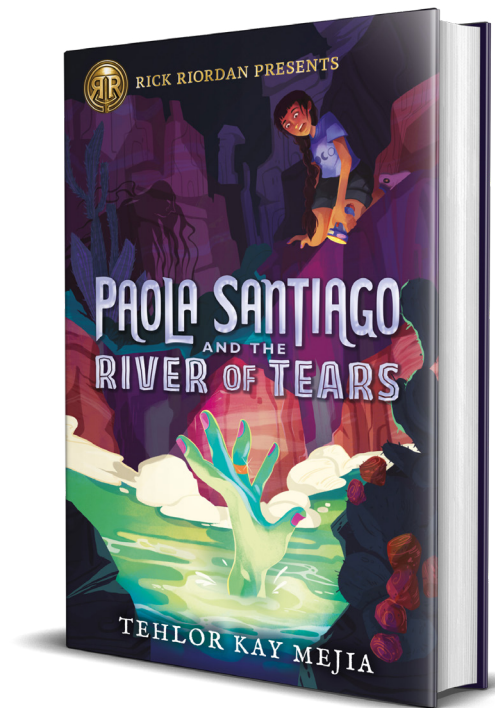
ABOUT THE BOOK

PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE RIVER OF TEARS

Paola “Pao” Santiago is obsessed with science and discovery, anchoring her world in thoughtful inquiry. A thick tension exists between Pao and her mother, a spiritualist who believes in tarot cards and superstitions. So strong are her mother’s beliefs that she prohibits Pao from going anywhere near the Gila River, where superstition holds that La Llorona wanders and wails, looking for her children that she drowned many years ago.

Not to be dissuaded by such baseless nonsense, Pao and her two best friends, Dante and Emma, agree to meet by the riverbank for a night of stargazing. However, Emma, who was to bring the telescope, never arrives. Just before Pao and Dante leave to search for Emma, Pao catches sight of a shadowy figure in the reeds.

Armed with a flashlight, a sandal, and a bottle of Florida Water, Pao and Dante are thrust into a mission that leads them into the depths of the river, through the dark corners of Pao’s nightmares. To save Emma, Pao will have to abandon everything she holds as fact, leaving behind the logical for the fantastical.



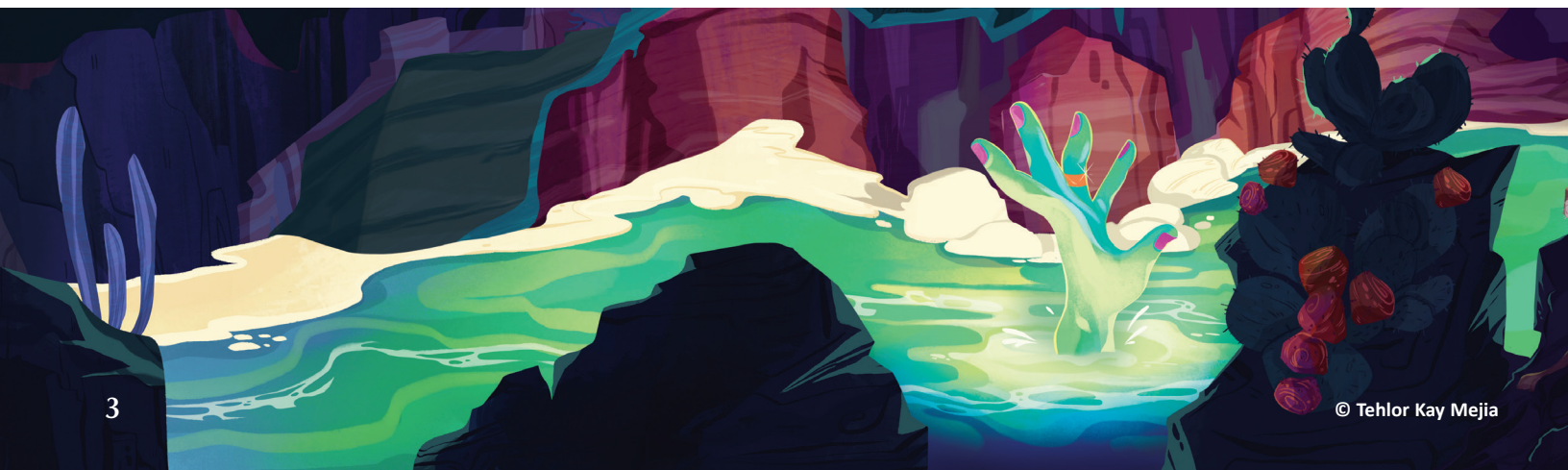
AS-YOU-READ ACTIVITY

START YOUR OWN SPANISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

As you come across words in Spanish in your reading, write them down, including the page number, use context clues to help you define their meaning, and think of what the English word might be for each of your terms. You can use your self-made dictionary for a post-reading activity.

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR DISCUSSION OR WRITING

1. Though Dante's and Emma's friendship means a great deal to Pao, Dante holds a special place in Pao's heart. In the last year, however, he's felt "half-in, half out to Pao, like he was always thinking about being somewhere else when they were together." Reflecting on your friendships, have you ever felt that you or some of your friends have been "half-in, half-out"? What causes friendships to become strained? Explain your answer.
2. Pao's mother would tell stories, such as the myth of La Llorona, to keep Pao from doing anything dangerous. These stories gave Pao nightmares, which she "erased with good old-fashioned research." Do you think that all stories should have to be proven in order to be important or true? Give examples of stories or superstitions that people believe even though there is no proof they are true.
3. Emma, unlike Pao and Dante, lives on the "gilded" side of town. Though she tries not to envy Emma, Pao's thoughts come out twice in the book when she thinks, "*The sun always bails on us first*," and later in the book, "disappointment in her own life took up more space in her stomach than the food." What is Pao really expressing in these two statements?
4. Pao finds herself always at odds with her mother. "They were always speaking to each other in a kind of code . . . Pao wished that, for once, they could just *talk*." Think about three issues Pao has with her mother as you read the book. Do Pao's feelings about her mother change over time? What does she learn about herself and her mom? Explain your answer.
5. In Chapter 2, Pao wakes up from a nightmare where she is being pulled underwater by a hand that is wearing Emma's ruby, heart-shaped ring. What signs or hints do you think our author is giving the reader about our story?
6. Pao and Dante reluctantly agree to meet Emma's parents at the police station to report Emma missing after she fails to show up at the river for their star viewing. Describe how the police officer treated Dante and Pao and how it made you feel. Why does Pao feel "shame" and "powerless" after they get sent home for "loitering"?
7. Pao is visited by two policemen whom she takes out to the river to the place of Emma's disappearance and tells them about the man she spotted. While they are at the river, Pao comes upon Emma's ring in the sand. What is the connection between Pao's dream and finding Emma's ring? Do you believe, like Pao, that "dreams are just electrical impulses that take things from memories" or do dreams "have a purpose in our greater journey"? Explain your answer.



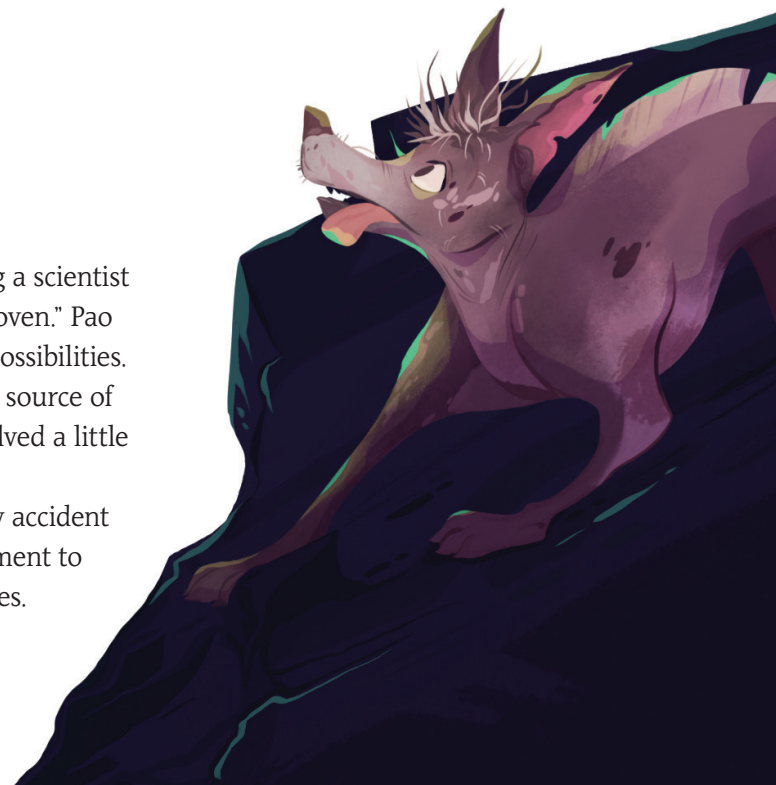
8. As the stress builds around Emma's disappearance, so do Pao's nightmares. Pao has a conversation in a nightmare with someone named Ondina who tells her, "you can't run . . . she needs you . . . don't hesitate. It won't save them." Do you believe Ondina really exists? Who do you believe Ondina is referring to in the nightmare? Is Ondina trying to help or hurt Pao?
9. Pao knows that it is up to her to find Emma, and Dante's grandmother tells Pao and Dante that "she seeks the Dreamer." Somehow, Pao knows she's the Dreamer but wonders how this is connected to Emma's disappearance. What do you believe is Pao's mission?
10. As Pao and Dante take off through the cactus forest, Pao sees the image of Marisa Martinez, the girl who drowned in the Gila River, fighting Ondina, the girl from Pao's dreams. Incredulous, Pao tries to come between them, but Marisa stabs Ondina, who then vaporizes. Marisa tells Pao, "If you're not a rift creature, this won't kill you," and proceeds to stab Pao. What is a rift and how does this relate to what Pao is seeing and experiencing? Is Pao walking between worlds?
11. Dante discovers that the light from the flashlight his grandmother gave him bends to the east when pointed at Pao, defying physics. Pao tells Dante, "None of the normal rules seem to apply, but that doesn't mean there aren't rules . . . It's just that we don't know what they are yet." Which kind of rules would apply to help Pao and Dante find Emma? Give your opinion about why or why not they should follow the flashlight.
12. In Chapters 10 and 11, we discover that Dante's chancla is an "Arma del Alma," a weapon tied to the soul of the wielder that reveals itself when it is most needed. What other fantastical stories have you read that also have *armas del alma*? What were they and what role do these *armas* play in the stories?
13. Just before Dante and Pao leave to find Emma, La Señora Mata tells them that "the third quarter is almost here, and the boundary will be crossable again. The solstice approaches." In the *campamento de los Niños de la Luz*, Sal tells Pao about the third-quarter moon—"when the veil gets thin. It's when the monsters can get through." What is the connection between the solstice, the veil, and the boundary? Do these terms mean the same thing? Explain your answers.
14. Marisa says that given the way Pao and Dante fended off the *manos pachonas*, she would be honored to have their help in the next battle. Dante does not hesitate, but Pao only cares about finding Emma and going home. Is Pao right to be selfish? What is it that scares Pao so much?
15. Pao's dreams begin to reveal clues that may help her find Emma. Should she trust Marisa with these revelations and dare to ask who Franco is?
16. To save the camp from being breached, Dante volunteers to go with Naomi. Naomi orders Pao to stay at the camp saying, "[I]f you're there, he'll be distracted. It could be dangerous for both of you." Why does Naomi say this Pao? What is happening with Pao and Dante's friendship? What was the first sign(s) in the book when you realized that things were changing between Pao and Dante?
17. Pao's flashlight turns out to be not only a compass but also a key that can ward off the rift creatures. In addition, the flashlight's power is drawn from Pao's energy. What danger does the flashlight pose to Pao if she is not careful?

18. After Sal helps her escape from Marisa and Naomi's clutches, Pao heads out into the cactus field to find Emma and Dante, knowing it means going through the rift. With her remaining energy and her newfound chupacabra puppy, Bruto, Pao takes on the passage and its demons, including her own. What realization and discoveries does Pao make as she navigates through the rift? What does she lose and gain in the passage?
19. As she forges her way to the glass castle, Pao comes upon Dante, who is in the middle of fighting off creatures. Their reunion is short-lived when Ondina locks Dante away and fights Pao for control. Shockingly, Ondina's power is stripped by a powerful voice. Pao realizes this voice was "a Source in the rift—someone who could intimidate and control the void's most fearsome creatures." Of all the creatures mentioned in the books thus far, who do you believe is behind the voice? Support your answer with clues from the book.
20. Does your opinion of Ondina change once you know the truth about her relationship to La Llorona? Do you fault Ondina for having done what she did to Pao and Dante? Explain your answer.
21. La Llorona wanted to right her wrong by bringing Ondina back to life. But in order to make that happen, Pao was going to have to trust that Ondina's desire for freedom would prevail. Do you believe Ondina can overcome her mother's will? Can Ondina be trusted to do right by everyone?
22. If you had the opportunity to harness and own the power and energy of the pearl, would you take it? What would you do with such immense power? Can you still accomplish your dreams without this energy?
23. What did it take for La Llorona to make the ultimate sacrifice?
24. Pao wanted to share with her mom what had really happened in the cactus field, but Señora Mata said, "[I]t was best to let people hold on to their illusion sometimes." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
25. What is your impression of la Señora Mata after her startling revelations? Any idea what her story might be?

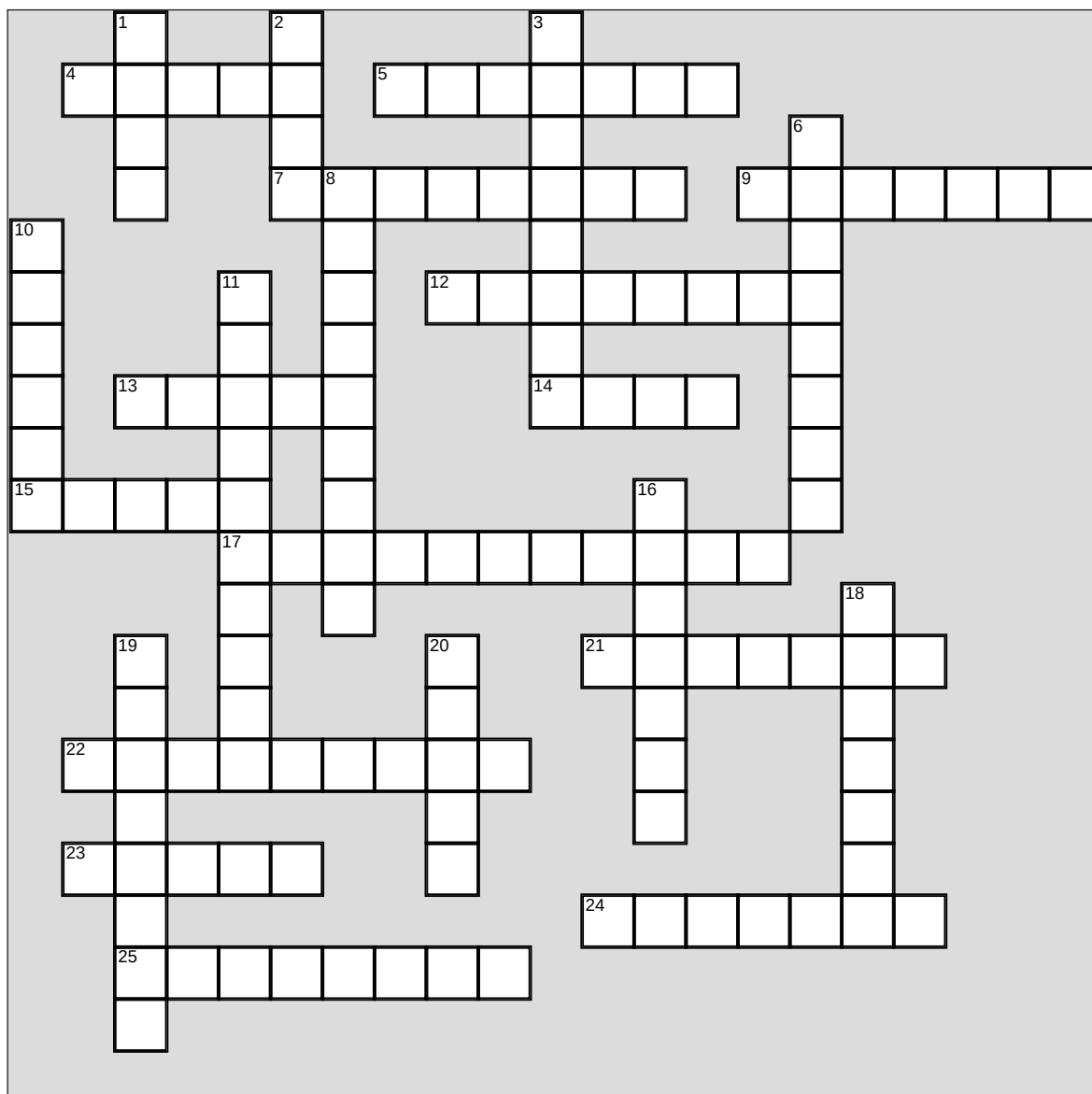
SCIENCE RESEARCH ACTIVITY

On page 129 of the book, Pao says she "always thought being a scientist meant having to dismiss things that couldn't be tested or proven." Pao also believed that "Scientists had to be open to all kinds of possibilities. Who would have thought, for example, that algae could be a source of fuel? In fact, what major scientific breakthrough *hadn't* involved a little faith in something previously believed to be impossible?"

Do research into something that was discovered either by accident or with intention that had an impact and made an improvement to society. Create a slideshow for presentation to your classmates.



PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE RIVER OF TEARS CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 4. Spanish for pay
- 5. Spanish for heart
- 7. Spanish for lunch
- 9. Spanish diminutive for dummy
- 12. Spanish for home remedies
- 13. Spanish for beast or idiot

14. English for alma

- 15. Spanish for flame or call
- 17. English for veladora
- 21. English for ahogado
- 22. Spanish for healer
- 23. English for fantasma
- 24. A stage or phase
- 25. Spanish for listen

DOWN

- 1. Spanish for hand
- 2. Spanish for weapon
- 3. Spanish for tears
- 6. When the sun reaches its maximum or minimum decline
- 8. Wailing woman

10. English for chancla

- 11. Wild, blood-sucking dog
- 16. Spanish for herbs
- 18. Spanish for owl
- 19. English for hija
- 20. Spanish for cures

(Answers on page 18.)

ABOUT THE BOOK

PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE FOREST OF NIGHTMARES

After successfully fighting off La Llorona in the rift last summer with her two best friends, Paola should feel invincible, able to conquer anything, but that is not the case. Since that time, Emma has made new friends, and Dante and Paola rarely speak to each other. Paola has also been dreaming of her estranged father and has no one to tell. Her mother, who spends more time with her new boyfriend than with Paola, is no help. Ultimately, Paola decides to visit Señora Mata, Dante's grandmother who is also a Niña de la Luz. Paola discovers that Señora Mata is not herself, saying things that are completely nonsensical before she falls into an unconscious state. To save Señora Mata and get to the truth about her father, Paola will have to sacrifice a friend in order to combat an evil stronger than La Llorona.



AS-YOU-READ ACTIVITIES

CREATE YOUR OWN SPANISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

As you come across words in Spanish in your reading, write them down, including the page number. Use context clues to help you define their meaning by guessing what the English word might be for each of your Spanish words. You will need your self-made Spanish-English dictionary for a post-reading activity.

PAOLA SANTIAGO'S OREGON TRAIL

Paola discovers that her father's address is in Oregon, which sets her on a trek to find him. Plot Paola's trek north by listing the cities and places she visits, as well as the events that happen along the way. Pay close attention to the roads they travel and details about the landscape. Create a map legend for each of the elements you would like to incorporate into your road map. This activity can be done using paper, pens, and colors, or on a computer.

Below are some ideas and resources to help you map Paola's Oregon Trail.



PRINT MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

- Highway map of the United States
- Crayons, pens, markers (assorted colors), note cards, tape, pins
- Map legend (create your own)
- Map scale (create your own)



ONLINE RESOURCES

- Mastering Map Reading
- 20 Ways Google MyMaps Can Enhance Lessons in Any Class

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR DISCUSSION OR WRITING

1. Everything seems to be going wrong for Paola. She is at odds with her mom, things between her and Dante are not normal, and Emma has made new friendships. Pao understands that people grow apart, “but that didn’t make it any less sad.” How have you handled the loss of a friendship? Explain what can cause really good friends to grow apart.
2. Paola’s mother believes that her daughter’s ghost hunting from last summer was Pao simply getting lost in the wilderness around the Gila River. However, when Pao tries to talk to Dante about the Niños or the rift, he seems embarrassed and acts like he’s trying to forget about it. What reasons would Dante have to deny that their mission to save Emma ever happened?
3. Pao is having dreams again, dreams that involve her father, a subject her mother will not discuss. In a fit of rage because of not having anyone to talk to, Pao ransacks her mother’s bedroom and discovers a Post-it with her dad’s address. Instinctively, Pao goes to Señora Mata for help. What happens to confirm that Pao was correct about visiting Dante’s grandmother? What warning does Señora Mata give Paola?
4. Dante walks into his apartment and finds his grandmother Señora Mata unresponsive on the ground. He believes Paola is fully to blame for what is happening to his grandmother, but Dante may be missing something. What signals are given that Dante, too, is connected to the paranormal activity surrounding his grandmother?
5. When Señora Mata falls unconscious, Paola fears calling 911 to get help for Mata, and she wonders: How is she supposed to get care for the people she loves “when the ‘care’ being dispatched was equally likely to kill them or ruin their lives?” What exactly is the author referring to in this statement?
6. Strange things are happening to Paola. First, her father appears in her dreams, followed by Señora Mata’s warning before her collapse. Additionally, a fantasma in the hospital is telling Pao that there is something strange about her, and even Paola feels that there is “something she’d been in the dark about her whole life.” What do you believe has been kept from Paola? Write down what you predict will happen.
7. Surprised that the Niños camp is gone without a trace, Dante fights with Paola about what to do next. Ultimately, they decide to get some rest before they head to the bus station. As Pao drifts off to sleep, she dreams again about her dad. Yet, this time Dante is in the dream with her, though only as a shadow that quickly disappears. What do you believe is lurking behind Dante’s change in attitude toward Paola?
8. Both Paola and Naomi suspect that there may be a connection between Pao’s mission to see her dad in Oregon and Franco’s magic anomaly, which took him and the Niños north. What could be the link between these two phenomena?

9. On her trek, Paola experiences three things that try to keep her from proceeding northward. She experiences an attack from a woman in the restaurant bathroom telling Pao to go with her, and she sees a hitchhiker wearing red. She then spots a boy in red pajamas on the side of the road with a sign that reads *North*. All three figures are eerily familiar to Pao, but she cannot remember from where. What connection do you see that Pao does not?
10. Lured into the past by a duende (an elf), Pao finds herself saving baby Dante from the wrath of a fantasma that has killed his father. Señora Mata then appears to take baby Dante home after he is abandoned by his mother. Señora Mata tells Paola that in order to get rid of the fantasma she will need to find his family, purify them, and “poof!” Describe what you believe are the steps that Pao has to take in order to successfully close this loop in time.
11. We learned from the first book, Paola Santiago and the River of Tears, that an “Arma del Alma” is tied to the soul of the wielder. To their life force. It is a rare and potent thing, usually handed down through bloodlines.” Do you believe Paola inherited her Arma del Alma, and if so, from who? If not, then why did it present itself to her? Explain your answers.
12. In Chapter 19, “The Unlikely Hero,” we witness the implosion of Dante and Paola’s friendship. What did you find most shocking about their incredible fight? Is Dante justified in blaming Paola for what has happened to him and his grandmother? Can this friendship ever be mended? Explain your answers.
13. Pao is perplexed that Dante was able to call the fantasma back from the void after she had dissolved it by pouring Florida Water over the locket. How do you think Dante could yield that kind of power?
14. Paola and Naomi encounter the Hitchhiker that has been following them since they departed for Oregon. What power does the Hitchhiker possess? Why do you believe the Hitchhiker is trying to thwart their mission?
15. Paola relays to Naomi the warnings Señora Mata made about Beto from her dreams. Naomi responds by telling Paola that Beto is La Llorona’s son. Paola then remembers La Llorona calling Beto ungrateful because he did not want to live if it meant others had to die in order for him to continue living. What role could Beto possibly be playing in Paola’s pursuit of her father?
16. Paola and Naomi find themselves being “spit out” by the forest in their pursuit of Paola’s dad. When Naomi asks Pao what could possibly be causing this to happen, Pao simply replies, “Magic.” Explain why Paola’s response is surprising. Support your answers with examples from the book.
17. Paola and Naomi have to convince the duendecillos that they can be trusted, but their leader says her kind has brought nothing but ruin to the forest. Pao explains that not all humans are bad, and the leader replies, “It is not the human in you we object to . . . It is the other.” Who or what do you suspect is the “other”?

18. The Hitchhiker tells Paola that an incredible power awaits her when she joins them. Deep inside, Paola knows she is bound to the leyenda, but her desire to know her truth is not as strong as her will to survive and save her friends. If you were Paola, what choice would you make? Explain your answer.
19. When Pao crosses into the portal to meet her father, she quickly gathers that he is possessed. He shares his body with a horrible soul. How do you think her father came to have another person's soul in his body?
20. Paola knew instinctively that if she could get her father to look into her eyes, she might be able to escape dying. How would you describe what happened between Paola and her father? What would you call that kind of power?
21. Throughout the book, Paola thinks of herself as evil, a monster. She believes she belongs to the void, just like her father. Yet her dad tells her she is not bound by what he is or what she was. "You are your own person—only you get to decide who you're going to be." Do you believe that Pao, after everything that has happened to her, truly has control over her destiny?
22. After separating her dad from the evil spirit, Paola sees that there is much to celebrate, with one exception: Dante is missing. At the end of Chapter 33, the author shares with readers her own thoughts on Pao's conflict: "Well, Pao had been to the void once before, hadn't she? With all these people on her side, maybe there was still hope." With Dante now possessed, is this the end for Paola's friendship with him? What does the future hold for them?



PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE FOREST OF NIGHTMARES

WORD SEARCH

Use the Spanish-English dictionary you created to help you find the Spanish translation for each of the words listed below.

F	A	E	C	S	R	P	A	R	A	D	A	M	Q	U	A	F	T	S	S
C	R	A	Q	P	E	D	Y	D	N	T	A	A	J	N	J	F	N	E	U
L	W	I	I	E	V	M	Q	C	A	L	B	E	A	V	O	V	V	D	C
P	B	D	I	S	E	T	H	U	D	G	J	T	M	P	P	H	O	N	C
H	R	R	D	O	N	O	M	E	I	D	O	Q	U	Y	B	C	X	E	T
G	B	O	Q	D	E	V	O	N	X	B	T	H	Z	Z	H	Z	Z	I	E
Z	D	C	I	N	N	J	P	T	U	F	X	N	A	I	T	J	P	T	T
R	Q	I	Y	I	O	W	E	O	Q	D	Z	Z	S	K	G	S	S	N	L
A	Q	R	I	H	E	W	C	D	S	Z	K	T	H	J	K	L	Y	E	E
N	J	E	R	C	Z	M	L	E	O	S	E	R	A	D	U	Y	A	A	Y
I	J	S	O	U	U	G	W	H	S	S	F	G	P	C	Q	O	M	F	E
C	L	I	S	E	D	X	M	A	E	B	I	D	S	X	V	S	Q	Q	N
O	A	M	R	U	O	G	W	D	B	Y	E	V	N	S	A	P	U	M	D
C	S	T	E	R	H	R	A	A	T	S	I	P	O	T	S	O	T	U	A
X	E	N	Z	B	A	M	E	S	T	I	B	S	N	A	D	R	E	D	M
Z	D	H	S	R	I	K	E	N	G	Z	Y	A	X	L	A	F	Y	E	O
E	W	G	U	X	T	C	D	N	I	Y	F	U	V	S	O	A	T	Z	T
Q	R	S	O	R	L	M	O	N	E	D	A	S	F	E	R	V	W	L	C
K	A	R	N	U	P	R	E	O	C	U	P	E	S	N	V	O	S	S	F
B	P	Z	D	O	G	A	M	L	A	N	U	E	H	M	E	R	G	R	M

KISSES

CANDY

SNACK

DROWNED

HELP

NEXT

MONEY

COINS

UNDERSTAND

COOK

DEATH

EVIL EYE

ELF

STOP

MERCY

JOKES

GHOST

LEGEND

POISON

SOUL

FAIRY TALE

PLEASE

TRASH

WORRY

(Answers on page 18.)

ABOUT THE BOOK

PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE SANCTUARY OF SHADOWS

Paola Santiago has not been the same since she lost Dante to the void back in Oregon. She is determined to get Dante back, but in order to do so, Pao is going to have to do two things: ask for help and face insurmountable fear. Does Paola have what it takes to bring down El Cucuy and resolve her relationships with her family and friends?

AS-YOU-READ ACTIVITIES

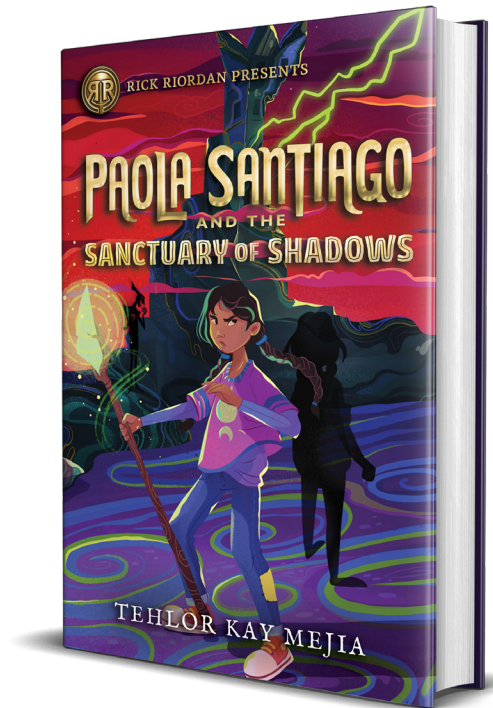
PAOLA SANTIAGO MESSES WITH TEXAS

Paola has not had one vision of Dante since he walked willingly into the void eight months ago. Then, one night, while sleeping, Pao finds herself sharing a vision with someone who has found the final rift. This vision puts her on the road again—this time with Emma and the Rainbow Rogues—to Santuario, Texas. On a map, plot Paola's trek east by listing the cities and places she visits, as well as the events that happen along the way. Pay close attention to the roads they travel and details about the landscape. This can be an extension of the mapping activity from book 2 (see page 7).

PAOLA'S TAROT READING

Paola is desperate to make her dreams come back, so she asks her mother, Maria, to read Pao's tarot cards. Maria's interpretations of the cards are bewildering and scary, but just how accurate are they?

You will need Paola's Tarot Reading Handout (see page 16) as you start reading Chapter 3. On the front of the handout, fill in Maria's reading for each of the tarot cards. As you continue reading, keep track of what is happening to Paola and use the back of the handout to document whether Maria's reading came true or not.



QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR DISCUSSION OR WRITING

1. Chapter 1 is titled "Poor Patrick," and readers quickly discover why the author has given this title to the first chapter. However, Patrick can also be viewed as a metaphor. Describe how Patrick might be a metaphor for what Paola is experiencing after returning from the void.
2. On page 7, we learn that the Niños de la Luz were left out of Paola, Beto, and Franco's mission to find the void in Canada. Specifically, the author describes the status of the Niños as "lost, escaped, forgotten, or otherwise fugitive children making it difficult for them to travel." How does the author use the story to comment on our own society?
3. Pao has become increasingly frustrated by her father's deliberate intent to keep her from participating in his and Franco's effort to find the void and rescue Dante. Beto believes she needs to mature and become stronger, mentally and physically, in order to confront the horrors she is facing, further infuriating Pao. Have you ever experienced the same level of frustration with adults? How did you resolve it?
4. Beto tells Paola that she should be relieved to be thirteen. However, Pao has no clue what it means to be thirteen, unlike Emma, who is more advanced in some areas than Pao. What makes this age so important? Do you consider thirteen years old to be a "good" age or a "difficult" age? Provide reasons for your answer.
5. Paola is at a complete loss as to how to save Dante. Her dreams were always the connection to saving her friends in the past, but she has been dreamless since coming home from the void. Pao turns to her mother for help by asking her to read Pao's tarot cards. Why is Paola's request such an important turning point in her relationship with her mother?
6. Paola dreamt of an anxious girl who was in search of a rift, desperate to not make any mistakes nor allow the enemy to beat her to the openings. It became clear that the enemy in the dream is Pao. For a moment, both Pao and the girl were aware of each other as a voice begins calling the girl back, just as Paola awakens. Who could the voice possibly be, and why is the girl a mirror image of Paola? Provide your interpretation of this "dream" confrontation and what it means.
7. Anxious to get to Santuario, Texas, before the girl closes the void, Pao attempts to "portal" herself there. However, Pao is being thwarted at every try by whom she suspects is La Llorona. Is it La Llorona, or some other force, that is blocking Pao? Explain your answer.
8. Paola is experiencing jealousy, angst, and confusion regarding Kit and Emma's friendship. She is further confused by Poppy's statement that Emma has feelings for Pao. What do you believe are the reasons for Paola's uncomfortable feelings? Why are these reasons justified or unjustified?
9. Paola sees the girl again in her dream. This time, the girl is scared and something bigger is happening. Though Paola has been committed to the quest to save Dante, the two dreams have her rattled and scared. What options do you believe Paola has at this point with regards to the quest?
10. The term *liminal space* comes up repeatedly in the book. It is defined as a place of transition that can be mental or physical. What are moments in people's lives where they might feel as though they are moving between two stages? What makes these moments liminal?

11. If Pao has already sensed her clone's fears and despair in dreams, how else might she and her clone be connected? What purpose do you think her clone serves?
12. What is Shadow Pao inferring when she tells Pao, "You limit yourself because you cannot admit what you are" (page 127)? Is Shadow Paola justified in saying this to Paola? Defend your answer.
13. In Chapter 14, Paola finds herself succumbing to fear and doubt as she is locked in a battle of minds with Shadow Pao. How does Paola find courage and strength to walk into the void?
14. Paola tricks El Cucuy into thinking she is portaling home. Instead, she portals to Dante's cage and together they portal to Santuario. Who is being outsmarted here, El Cucuy or Paola? Explain your answer.
15. Upon returning home, Paola assumed that she, Beto, and Franco would work as a team to fight El Cucuy and close the void. To her shock and disbelief, however, Beto trapped her, Dante, and the Rainbow Rogues in with the Niños in the warehouse. What do you suspect is happening with Beto? What evidence can you point to in the book to support your answer?
16. Beto believed that Robin was one of El Cucuy's copies and that she stole Paola's Arma del Alma. Yet, when Beto brought Robin back and questioned her, she did not have the Arma del Alma. Who do you believe has the Arma del Alma, and why do you believe they might have taken it?
17. After a difficult journey, five friends returned together from the void. However, at least one of them may not be who they seem. Which of the five that returned from the void do you believe is a copy? Why do you believe that your answer is correct?
18. After the void is opened, El Cucuy addresses everyone in the warehouse and tells them that Paola is of the void and that they should think carefully before they choose a side. What tactics is El Cucuy using to win this war?
19. If it was never Paola's role to be part of the fight, what, then, is her purpose? What does Paola possess that signifies that only she can bring an end to this war?
20. In Chapter 29, Paola finds the real Dante and tells him everything she has done to save him. However, Dante is "twisted" and, thanks to El Cucuy, is suspicious of anything and anyone. Pao wants Dante to acknowledge how much he hurt her but she feels that "people can only love you as much as they love themselves" (page 300). How does this quote from the book relate to the relationship between Pao and Dante?
21. Dante had been caged for eight long months, but the bars enclosing him came from within him. We have all felt fear like Dante at some point, a fear that traps us. What strategies do you use to address your own fears in order to eliminate them or make them manageable?
22. In your own words, who was El Cucuy, what does he represent as a character in the book, and how did he ultimately meet his end?
23. How was privilege and power used for the greater good in the epilogue? What greater good would you do if gifted with privilege and power?

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Some members of the Rainbow Rogues are not too thrilled that Paola is on the field trip. Pao feels like she is forcing Emma to choose between Paola and the Rogues. Sometimes, friends inadvertently put each other in difficult positions because of a conflict with another person or group. What steps can people take to ensure that their friends do not get involved when a problem arises with another person or group? Create a “checklist” for Pao to do to protect Emma and avoid making Emma uncomfortable. How can you use this checklist in your own life, with your own friends?
2. One of the challenges that the characters face in the book is trying to determine if they are interacting with a real person or a clone. Imagine you are assisting characters in the book that do not have an Arma del Alma by creating a how-to manual for identifying clones. Using one sheet of printer paper, fold it first in a “hot dog” fold and then twice in a “hamburger” fold. When you unfold the paper, you will have eight total spaces. Use the first space as your title space for your manual and the remaining spaces for “Step 1,” “Step 2,” etc. Write out the steps in your how-to guide, and get creative by adding drawings or graphics that illustrate steps.



PAOLA'S TAROT READING

GIVEN BY MARIA

CROWN



Ten of Pentacles

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PAST



The Hierophant

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PRESENT



The Lovers

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FUTURE



The Tower

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ROOT



The Moon

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PAOLA'S TAROT READING

WERE THE READINGS TRUE OR NOT?

CROWN



Ten of Pentacles

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PAST



The Hierophant

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PRESENT



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FUTURE



The Tower

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ROOT



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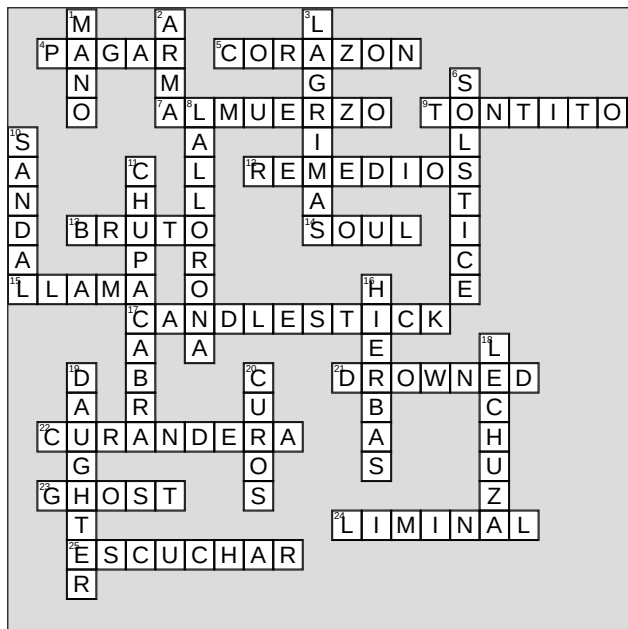
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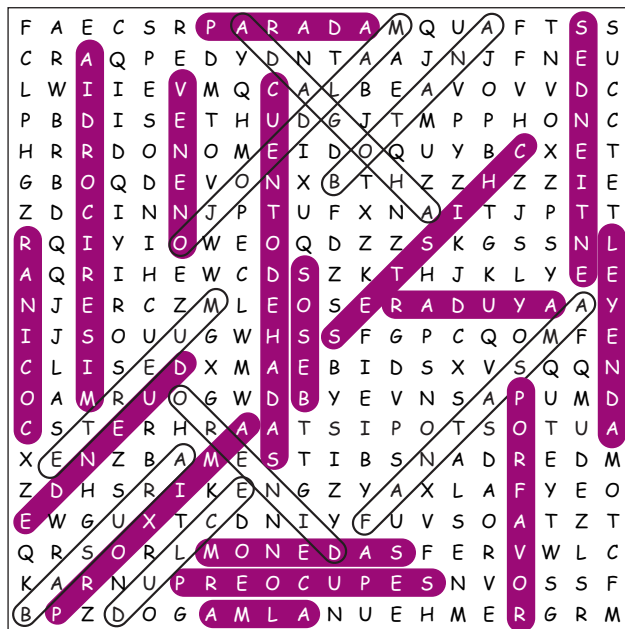
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ANSWER KEY

PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE RIVER OF TEARS CROSSWORD



PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE FOREST OF NIGHTMARES WORD SEARCH



SPANISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Book 1

Beast—Bruto
Candlestick—Veladora
Cures—Curos
Daughter—Hija
Drowned—Ahogado
Dummy—Tontito
Flame/Call—Llama
Ghost—Fantasma
Hand—Mano
Healer—Curandera
Heart—Corazón
Herbs—Hierbas
Home remedies—
Remedios

Listen—Escuchar
Lunch—Almuerzo
Owl—Lechuza
Pay—Pagar
Sandal—Chancla
Soul—Alma
Tears—Lágrimas
Wailing Woman—
La Llorona
Weapon - Arma

Book 2

Candy—Dulce
Coins—Monedas
Cook—Cocinar
Death—Muerte
Drowned—Ahogada
Elf—Duende
Evil eye—Mal de ojo
Fairy tale—
 Cuento de hadas
Ghost—Fantasma
Help—Ayudar
Hitchhiker—Autostopista
Jokes—Chistes
Kisses—Besos

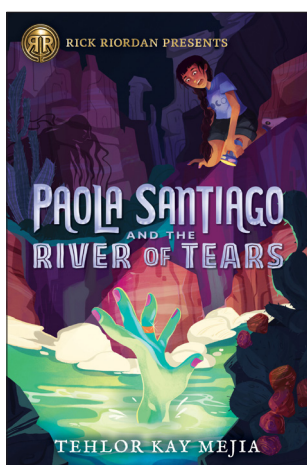
Legend—Leyenda
Mercy—Misericordia
Money—Dinero
Next—Próxima
Please—Por favor
Poison—Veneno
Snack—Botana
Soul—Alma
Stop—Parada
Trash—Basura
Understand—Entiendes
Worry—Preocupes

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tehlor Kay Mejia is an Oregon native in love with the alpine meadows and evergreen forests of her home state, where she lives with her daughter. She is the author of three middle grade titles about Paola Santiago: *Paola Santiago and the River of Tears*, *Paola Santiago and the Forest of Nightmares*, and *Paola Santiago and the Sanctuary of Shadows*. Her short fiction appears in the *All Out and Toil & Trouble* anthologies from Harlequin Teen and *The Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities* from Rick Riordan Presents. She has also written two highly acclaimed YA novels, *We Set the Dark on Fire* and *We Unleash the Merciless Storm*. When she's not writing, you can find her plucking at her guitar, stealing rosemary sprigs from overgrown gardens, or trying to make the perfect vegan tamale. Follow her on Instagram @tehlorkay.



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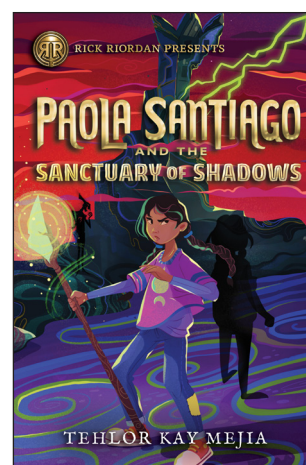
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This guide was written by **Maribel Castro**, a former school and academic librarian, currently serving as the director of technology and information services at Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Castro has served on several reading list committees, served as president of the Texas Library Association and was a member of the executive board of the American Association of School Librarians. She is the child of migrant workers from Mexico who did not have much in terms of wealth, but got her a library card, opening up a rich world of words and thoughts. Castro believes that children of diverse backgrounds deserve to be reflected in the pages of the books they read.

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