



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2025 Volume III: Graphic Narratives as Teaching Tools

Breaking Panels, Building Bridges: Graphic Novels & Latinx Voices

Guide for Curriculum Unit 25.03.03, published September 2025

by Marla Colondres

This unit advocates for integrating authentic Spanish graphic novels into 9-12 World Language curricula, recognizing their unique power to explore Latinx identity, immigration, and border complexities. In a challenging political climate, the graphic novel *Una historia más: Un relato de migración* offers vital opportunities to humanize immigrant experiences, moving beyond statistics to cultivate profound empathy and challenge stereotypes.

Graphic novels' visual rhetoric effectively conveys emotion, cultural context, and complex meanings, fostering deeper reader connection and active engagement. They uniquely portray identity's fluidity and the multifaceted challenges of migratory journeys, "showing" rather than merely "telling" with immediate emotional impact that transcends language barriers. Ultimately, this initiative asserts graphic novels as transformative educational tools. They cultivate critical thinking, visual literacy, and compassion, fostering a more informed and equitable social conversations on identity, immigration, and belonging within Latinx communities and beyond.

Key Words: Latinx, immigration, graphic novel, Spanish, border crossing, migration

(Developed for Spanish II, grades 9-12; recommended for Spanish III, IV, AP Spanish, and Spanish for Heritage Speakers I and II, grades 9-12)

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2025 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use