

Hot off the Presses
Dreamers

Yuyi Makes a Choice
Cost-Benefit Analysis

Story Synopsis: This story is based the author’s experience of leaving Mexico and becoming an immigrant in the United States. Beautifully illustrated and written, it tells a tale of hopes and dreams. The author’s note at the end of the book explains the motivation for her decision to relocate and start a new life.

Time Required: 25-30 minutes

Grade Level: 3-5

Objectives:

- The student will be introduced to the concepts of costs and benefits.
- The student will complete a group activity based on a class-created Cost-Benefit Analysis Chart.
- The student will make an independent decision.

Materials:

- Visual *Dreamers* Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Choice Cards- Printed on cardstock
- Copy of *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales

Procedure:

1. Prepare and collect materials prior to class. Reproduce the visual and choice cards.
2. Introduce the lesson by reading *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales to the students. This takes 2-3 minutes. The story is also available on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAMOr9TuGEs>
3. Display the cost-benefit analysis visual and read the introduction and directions. Review the terms Cost, Benefit and Alternative. Solicit responses from the students concerning the possible costs and benefits of each alternative and record the answers. Possible responses include:

	Alternative 1 Stay in Mexico	Alternative 2 Leave Mexico go to the United States
<i>Benefits Advantages or Good Points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ It’s your home, your birthplace. ☺ You know the language. ☺ You won’t have to leave most of your possessions behind. ☺ You won’t have to make a long and difficult trip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Your great-grandfather lives there and your son can meet him. ☺ You can marry your son’s father who is a US citizen. ☺ It could be an exciting adventure. ☺ There may be more opportunities for your son in the United States.
<i>Costs Disadvantages or Bad Points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ Not being able to have your son get to know his great-grandfather ☹ You won’t be able to get married. ☹ It may be difficult to find a job. ☹ Your son may not have as many opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☹ You will only be able to bring a few possessions in a backpack. ☹ Having to learn a new language and different customs. ☹ You may find it difficult to find a job. ☹ It may be dangerous to make such a long trip.

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4. Discuss their responses and then ask the students to pretend that they are Yuyi Morales and are trying to decide if she should leave Mexico and go to the United States.
5. Tell the students that they are going to *vote with their feet*. Read the choice cards to the students, placing each card in a different corner of the room.
6. Ask the students to *vote with their feet*, which means getting out of their seats standing by the choice card they think would be the best decision Yuyi could make.
7. Allow the students in each group to quickly discuss why they selected this choice. Ask each group to share with the class why they choose that option and what were the incentives for that choice.
8. Conclude the lesson by asking the students if there could have been any other choices for her to make in this situation.
9. Remind students that all choices have costs and benefits.

Extension Activities:

- Challenge the students to create a list of at least five “real life” situations that require some serious decision making. Possible topics may include: packing a lunch vs. buying the school lunch, riding the school bus vs. walking to school, doing homework right after school vs. playing games with friends.

Choice Cards:

<p>STAY IN MEXICO</p>
<p>STAY IN MEXICO FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO THEN GO TO THE UNITED STATES</p>
<p>GO TO THE UNITED STATES WITH YOUR SON</p>
<p>GO TO THE UNITED STATES LEAVE YOUR SON WITH A FAMILY MEMBER SEND FOR HIM LATER</p>

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Visual-

Yuyi Makes a Choice
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In *Dreamers* Yuyi Morales uncle must decide if she, and her young son, are to leave Mexico and travel to the United States. What should she do? Using information found in the Author's Notes in the back of the book, help her decide by filling in this chart with some of the advantages and disadvantages of the two possible alternatives (choices).

	Alternative 1 Stay in Mexico	Alternative 2 Leave Mexico go to the United States
Benefits <i>Advantages</i> <i>or</i> <i>Good Points</i>	   	   
Costs <i>Disadvantages</i> <i>or</i> <i>Bad Points</i>	   	   