

La Juanita

Alice Dunbar-Nelson

How does the opening make La Juanita seem both part of the community and set apart from it?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Opening - Mandeville gathers for the New Camelia

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	If you never lived in Mandeville, you cannot appreciate the thrill of wholesome, satisfied joy which sweeps over its inhabitants every evening at five o'clock.
END	La Juanita Alvarez, since Madame Alvarez was a widow, and Grandpere Colomes was strict and stern.
PASSAGE ID	sec-juanita-01

THE MOVE

Trace how a setting shifts into a social portrait through collective attention

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The narrator first makes the steamer arrival a shared ritual, then introduces subtle excitement and the crowd's glances toward La Juanita. The shift from communal routine to concentrated attention establishes her as the town's "pride" while also placing her under unusually intense observation.

MARK

Underline details that make the steamer arrival a community ritual. Circle words suggesting unusual excitement. Box phrases describing how the town sees La Juanita.

NOTICE

- What does everyone in Mandeville normally share at five o'clock?
- When does the ordinary ritual begin to feel different on this day?

- How does being admired also make La Juanita highly visible to others?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the opening make La Juanita seem both part of the community and set apart from it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The opening first places La Juanita inside a tightly shared community ritual, then separates her through the crowd's special attention. She belongs to Mandeville so completely that she is called its pride, yet the same admiration turns her into an object of observation, making community affection and social pressure inseparable.

EVIDENCE

Use one detail about the town's shared routine and one detail about the crowd's attention to La Juanita.

WATCH FOR

Do not summarize only the setting. The instructional move is the change from describing Mandeville as a group to showing how that group watches one person.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

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WORK	La Juanita
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

If you never lived in Mandeville, you cannot appreciate the thrill of wholesome, satisfied joy which sweeps over its inhabitants every evening at five o'clock.

END

La Juanita Alvarez, since Madame Alvarez was a widow, and Grandpere Colomes was strict and stern.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline details that make the steamer arrival a community ritual. Circle words suggesting unusual excitement. Box phrases describing how the town sees La Juanita.
2. NOTICE What does everyone in Mandeville normally share at five o'clock? When does the ordinary ritual begin to feel different on this day? How does being admired also make La Juanita highly visible to others?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does the opening make La Juanita seem both part of the community and set apart from it?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.