Read each Context Card.

Talk about a picture. Use different Vocabulary words from the one in the card.

accepted
The student gave the teacher an apple. She accepted it.

express
You can express your ideas by writing a story.
taught
This teacher taught his class a new word.

express

grand
A grand award is a top prize in a contest.

A grand award is a top prize in a contest.

pretend
This girl is not a real doctor. She is a pretend doctor.

prize
The best speller received first prize in the spelling bee.

The best speller received first prize in the spelling bee.

wonder
The children wonder when the caterpillar will become a butterfly.

fluttering
The butterfly is fluttering its wings as it flies. The wings move quickly.

The butterfly is fluttering its wings as it flies. The wings move quickly.
The Nobel Prize for Literature is a grand award. This important prize is given each year to a different writer. Gabriela Mistral received the prize in 1945. Some of her poems are about butterflies fluttering or pretend places. Mistral was also a teacher. She taught her students to express their feelings in words. Do you wonder who will win the Nobel Prize for Literature next?

Countries Where Gabriela Mistral Lived

Gabriela Mistral accepted the Nobel Prize in Sweden.
Comprehension

✓ TARGET SKILL Understanding Characters

*My Name is Gabriela* is a true story about the poet Gabriela Mistral. As you read the story, pay attention to what Gabriela says and does. You can write important details in a chart like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Thoughts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ TARGET STRATEGY Analyze/Evaluate

Use the information in your chart and what you read to decide why Gabriela became a teacher. This will help you understand more about Gabriela Mistral.
MEET THE AUTHOR

Monica Brown

Monica Brown’s daughters think it’s pretty cool to have a mom who’s an author. At book signings, “They’ll walk up and announce that it was their Mommy who wrote this book,” Ms. Brown says. The family lives in Arizona not far from the Grand Canyon.

MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

John Parra

John Parra grew up in California in a home filled with Mexican art, food, and traditions. Today, Mr. Parra’s colorful artwork can be seen in galleries, on posters and CD covers, and in the pages of children’s books.
My Name is Gabriela
by Monica Brown  illustrated by John Parra

Essential Question
What makes a character interesting?
My name is Gabriela Mistral. It is a name I chose myself because I like the sound of it. I love words and sounds and stories.
ABRIELA MISTRAL
When I was a little girl, I lived with my mother and Emelina, my sister, in a small house in the beautiful Elqui Valley in Chile. From my bedroom window I could see the Andes Mountains.
When I couldn’t sleep I would look up at the mountains and wonder what could be beyond them. Zebras with polka dots? Rainbow-colored flowers? Angels reading books?
I loved words—I liked the sounds they made rolling off my tongue and I liked the way they could express how I felt.

When I saw a butterfly fluttering, I noticed the way the words fluttering butterfly sounded together—like a poem.
I taught myself to read so that I could read other people's words and stories. I read stories about princes and princesses, about monsters, and about birds and flowers.

STOP AND THINK
Author's Craft  How does the author describe the way Gabriela feels about words?
I also liked to write poems, sing songs, and tell stories using the words that I knew. I told stories about happy times and sad times, about mothers and babies and little children.
I liked to play school with the children of my village. I pretended to be the teacher, and my friends, Sofia, Ana, and Pedro, were my pupils.

Pedro would always say that I was mean because I made him write his ABCs until he knew all the letters of the alphabet. But I told him that the alphabet is important. How else would he create words and tell his stories without it?
In our pretend class we sang songs like:
The baby chicks are saying,
Peep, peep, peep.
It means they’re cold and hungry.
It means they need some sleep.
That was Sofía’s favorite song. During recess we had fun, running and chasing and laughing and playing.
When I grew up I became a real teacher and writer. I taught the children of Chile, and many of my students became teachers themselves.

I still wrote poems—happy poems, sad poems, stories of mothers and children. But I also wrote poems about animals—about parrots and peacocks and even rats!

STOP AND THINK
Understanding Characters
What in the story tells you that Gabriela thinks teaching and learning are important?
I also traveled to far away places. I never saw zebras with polka dots or rainbow-colored flowers, but I met wonderful children and their teachers.

I traveled to Europe—to France and Italy.
I traveled to Mexico.
I traveled to the United States.
Everywhere I went, I wrote and taught and met teachers. I saw how all over the world, people wanted their children to learn.
My stories traveled the world with me. People liked to read my happy stories, my sad stories, my stories of women and children, my stories of parrots and peacocks, of old lions and of the fisherfolk, who slept in the sand and dreamt of the sea.

STOP AND THINK
Analyze/Evaluate What might Gabriela Mistral want to tell children like you?
And because people from all over the world loved my stories so, I was given a very special prize—the Nobel Prize for Literature.

When I accepted the grand award, I thought of the beautiful mountains outside of my window in Chile, of my mother and sister, of the children of my village, and of all the stories that still need to be told.
Write a Name Poem

How would you describe Gabriela? Write a name poem. Use each letter in Gabriela’s name to begin a word or set of words that describes her. Share your poem with the class.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Great writer
Always following her dreams

Turn and Talk

Someone Special

Look back at pages 84–93 of the selection. Talk with a partner about Gabriela’s actions as a child. Would you want to be her friend? Why or why not? UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERS
Poems About Reading and Writing

When you read a poem, do you pretend to be in the poem? When you write a poem, do you express wonder about things? These poems are about reading and writing.

Share the Adventure

Poetry uses the sound of words to show pictures and feelings.

Rhythm is a pattern of beats, like music.

accepted pretend
express prize
taught wonder
grand fluttering

Fiction, nonfiction:
Door to our past and future
Swinging back and forth

WHAM! The book slams shut,
But we read it together
With our minds open

by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack
The Period

Fat little period, round as a ball,
You’d think it would roll,
But it doesn’t
At all.
Where it stops,
There it plops,
There it stubbornly stays,
At the end of a sentence
For days and days.

"Get out of my way!"
Cries the sentence. "Beware!"
But the period seems not to hear
or to care.
Like a stone in the road,
It won’t budge, it won’t bend.
If it spoke, it would say to a sentence,
"The end."

by Richard Armour