

READ

Read the title: What do you think this story is going to be about? Look at the first spread. Discuss where the children are from. Ask: Where are the pyramids? Where do you think Dalia is from? Turn the page. Ask: Why is Lola sad? Look at the spread with Jhonathan the barber. Ask: Why might people leave the Island? What might be the 'other things'? Stop in surprise at Mr Mir and the monster. Ask: Why don't people talk about the monster? Do you think Mr Mir misses the Island? Finish the story and enjoy the bright illustrations. Reread the story and look for the blanket bats.

ISLANDBORN LIBRARY/ CLASSROOM NOTES

Islandborn by Junot Diaz is a warm-hearted story about a girl called Lola, whose teacher asks her to draw a picture of the Island she comes from. She cannot remember the Island, so she asks for help from her family and friends.



DISCUSS

What are good things about being from somewhere different? Are there any bad things? Why do people move? Would you move if there was a monster in your town? What kind of monster do you think it is? Can you be from two different places at once? Lola called her grandmother *abuela* from the Spanish. What do you call your grandmother?

EXPLORE

Find photographs on the internet of where Lola and her class talk about (Egypt, Panama). Discuss what might be different about each place and what might be similar. Look at photographs of the animals from Lola's story and talk about whether they come from hot or cold climates. Listen to music from different cultures and discuss how it makes you feel. Ask your family and friends about the places they are from.

CREATE

Write a story about the place you live now with three good things and one thing you would like to be different. Draw pictures of where everyone comes from. Create a list of all the Spanish words and their definitions. Create flags with pieces of card. Print off a map and place pins where people are from or have travelled to. Create a travel poster for where you live now. Ask everyone to bring a type of food from their culture.



