

I DO, WE DO, YOU DO: Siege at the Alamo

WE DO-READERS' THEATRE: Enrique Esparza and the Battle of the Alamo

Characters:

Narrator #1

Narrator #2

Enrique Esparza: an eight-year old boy living at the Alamo

Anita Esparza: Enrique's mother

Gregorio Esparza: Enrique's father

Mr. Smith – a townsman

Mexican Soldier #1

Mexican Soldier #2

Colonel Travis: Leader of the Texas army

Santa Anna: Leader of the Mexican Army

Setting: The year is 1836 in San Antonio Texas at the Alamo. The Alamo is a building that was once used as a mission [a place where people live and learn the Christian religion] but is now used as a fort for the Texas army.

Part 1: Santa Anna Arrives at the Alamo

Narrator 1: Welcome to San Antonio, Texas. It is February 1836, and Texas is a part of Mexico. The story you are about to hear is the true story of the Esparza family.

Enrique: I am Enrique Esparza and I am eight years old. I live with my parents, my sister, and my brothers. We are all Tejanos.

Narrator 1: Tejanos were Mexicans who had lived in Texas all their lives. Most of the people living in Texas were Americans, also called Anglos.

Gregorio: I am Enrique's father, Gregorio. I am a soldier in the Texas army.

Enrique: He is one of the only men who can handle the big cannon at the Alamo.

Anita: Hola, I am Enrique's mother, Anita.

Enrique: I have heard my mother and father talking a lot about someone named Santa Anna.

Narrator 2: General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was the President of Mexico. Many people in Texas did not like him. He raised taxes and passed unfair laws. The Mexican army had come to San Antonio a few months ago, but the Texas soldiers had driven it away. Now the Mexican Army was on its way back. Santa Anna was coming too, and he was angry with the Texans.

Narrator 1: Everyone knew the fight against Santa Anna would happen at the Alamo.

Gregorio: Anita, you must take the children and leave San Antonio. It will be very dangerous here. Our friend John Smith has promised to send a wagon to take you some place safe. I will stay at the Alamo to fight. **(Gregorio leaves the scene)**

Narrator 2: Sadly, the family's plans had to change.

SOUND: KNOCK ON THE DOOR

Enrique (answers the door): Mother! Mr. Smith is here!

Anita: Thank you, Enrique. Hello Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith: Where is your husband?

Anita: He is not here. Did you bring the wagon?

Mr. Smith: I'm sorry! It is too late to leave. Tell Gregorio that Santa Anna has already arrived.

Narrator 1: Enrique ran to tell his brother and sister the news **(Enrique runs away)**

Narrator 2: The battle for Texas would soon begin!

Part 2: Moving to the Alamo

Narrator 1: Later that day, Gregorio returned home.

Anita: Oh, Gregorio! Santa Anna is already here!

Gregorio: Where is the wagon?

Enrique: There is no wagon. Mr. Smith said it was too late.

Gregorio: Then I am going to the fort. They will need the cannons.

Anita: I will gather our things.

Gregorio: It will be very dangerous.

Anita: Where you go, I go. If you are to die, I want to be near you.

Enrique: I wish I could hide but I know I must be brave.

Narrator 1: Moving to the Alamo took all day. As they moved, Enrique's family could hear the sound of Santa Anna's drums in the distance.

SOUND: [DRUMS POUNDING]

Narrator 2: Soldiers from the Texas Army already stood watch at the Alamo. Other women and children waited inside too. Enrique's family was the last to arrive.

Narrator 1: The Alamo was filled with about two hundred people. Enrique saw many people he knew from town. He met Colonel Travis.

Colonel Travis: Hello Enrique, I am Colonel Travis. I am in charge of the soldiers here. You and your family will stay in the chapel where you will be safe.

Anita: Look! Do you see that flag?

Narrator 1: Santa Anna's soldiers hung a blood red flag from the bell tower of San Fernando Cathedral. Everyone in the Alamo could see it in the distance.

Narrator 2: The flag meant Santa Anna and his soldiers would take no prisoners. They planned to kill anyone who tried to escape or surrender.

Colonel Travis: Victory or Death! I shall never surrender or retreat! I will die like a soldier!

Narrator 1: Colonel Travis fired a shot from the cannon on the roof of the Alamo.

SOUND: [CANNON FIRING]

Gregorio: There will be no surrender. Victory or death! We want freedom more than life itself.

Enrique: I wish my father was not a soldier! I don't want him to die!

Part 3: Battle of the Alamo

Narrator 1: That night, Enrique huddled with his family in the corner of the chapel. Darkness filled the fort. Enrique couldn't see anything but he could hear the guns and the cannons.

SOUND: [GUNS AND CANNONS]

Narrator 2: The fighting continued every day and every night. The Mexican army fired its cannon into the Alamo every fifteen minutes. There were many nights when Enrique's father slept by his cannon. The rest of the family slept hidden in the hay next to their mother in the chapel.

Enrique: I want to help the soldiers! If I can find a weapon, I will fight too! Maybe I can be a hero and save my family!

Narrator 1: But there were not enough weapons for everyone.

Narrator 2: During the day, the soldiers and their families had many things to do. People took short naps and tried to relax whenever the battle slowed down. Sometimes Davy Crockett, a famous adventurer from Tennessee, played his fiddle.

SOUND: [FIDDLE PLAYING]

Anita: Enrique, go take this food to your father and the others. Hurry back so you can help with the wounded men.

Narrator 1: Seven days after the fighting began a message came from Santa Anna. He called for a three-day armistice, or peace. During this stop in the fighting, people could surrender and leave the Alamo.

Anita: What will we do? Is it really safe to leave?

Gregorio: Even if we surrender, I do not think we will be allowed to live. I would rather die fighting. Please take the children and leave. I will stay and fight.

Anita: Our family will stay together. If they kill one, they can kill us all.

Gregorio: Our freedom is worth fighting for.

Narrator 2: The armistice ended. Day after day, the Anglos and Tejanos in the Alamo fought hard against the Mexican Army. Supplies were running low. The Texan soldiers were almost out of ammunition. Everyone was hungry and thirsty. Some men were so tired they fell asleep while guarding the fort.

Narrator 1: After twelve long days and nights, the attacks stopped.

Enrique: Mother, it's so quiet. Maybe the fighting is done.

Narrator 1: Suddenly a terrible noise exploded in the darkness.

SOUND: [GUNS AND CANNONS]

Part 4: The Final Struggle

Anita: Gregorio, wake up! Santa Anna's soldiers have jumped the wall!

Narrator 2: Santa Anna's soldiers tore through the fort! They fired everywhere! They threw open the door to the chapel. Enrique felt sick. He wondered if he was about to die. He shut his eyes. The soldiers fired their weapons.

Narrator 1: Bullets whizzed past the women and children but the bullets missed them all. Enrique ran to the corner of the chapel and huddled with the rest of his family.

Narrator 2: At daylight, soldiers searched the chapel's rooms. One soldier poked Enrique's mother with his sword.

Mexican Soldier 1: Where is your money?

Anita: I have no money.

Narrator 1: The soldier slapped her.

SOUND: [SLAP]

Anita: [scream]

Narrator 2: Enrique wanted to scream too.

Mexican Soldier 2: Leave them alone! The women and children are not to be hurt! Take them to the house in the plaza!

Narrator 2: Enrique and his family walked through the Alamo toward the plaza. The smoke was thick and burned Enrique's eyes. He saw the dead bodies of Anglos and Tejanos, but he tried not to look at them.

Mexican Soldier 1: Santa Anna wants to see you.

Enrique: What will General Santa Anna do to us?

Santa Anna: I am General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. What is your name?

Anita: Anita Esparza.

Santa Anna: Where is your husband?

Anita: He's dead at the Alamo.

Santa Anna: Where is the rest of your family?

Anita: My husband's brother, Francisco, is in your army.

Narrator 1: Santa Anna nodded and gave Enrique's mother a blanket and two silver coins.

Santa Anna: You can go now.

Narrator 2: There was nothing Enrique could do. He clenched his hands tightly at his side and stared at the man who killed his father. It would haunt him the rest of his life, even years later when Texans and all the Tejanos were free.

I DO-VOCABULARY, DATES, & PEOPLE TO KNOW: Texas Revolution Part 1

1. Infantry: _____
2. Cavalry: _____
3. Artillery: _____
4. Bombardment: _____
5. Siege: _____
6. Provisions: _____
7. Sam Houston: _____
8. Battle of Gonzales: _____
9. Battle of Goliad: _____
10. Siege of San Antonio: _____
11. Siege of the Alamo: _____

YOU DO-INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Texas Revolution Newspaper Project

- The first three articles should be finished by the end of the period!

