BOOK RESUME: BEFORE WE WERE FREE

Title: Before We Were Free
Author: Julia Alvarez
Imprint: Ember
Publisher: Random House Children's Books
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ISBN: 9780399555497
Format: Paperback
Age Range*: 12 up
Grade Range: Gr 6-10
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government's secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition of el Trujillo's dictatorship.

Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind.

From renowned author Julia Alvarez comes an unforgettable story about adolescence, perseverance, and one girl's struggle to be free.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A stirring work of art." —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

"A realistic and compelling account of a girl growing up too quickly while coming to terms with the cost of freedom." —*The Horn Book*, Starred Review

"Diary entries written by the child while in hiding will remind readers of Anne Frank's story.... Readers will bite their nails as the story moves to its inexorable conclusion." —*School Library Journal*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- WINNER 2003 - ALA Notable Children's Book
- WINNER 2003 - ALA Best Books for Young Adults
- WINNER 2004 - Pura Belpre Narrative Award
- WINNER 2002 – Américas Award

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

BEFORE WE WERE FREE Readers Guide

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.