

## Días de Consuelo

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Written by Dr. Theresa Rojas, *Días de Consuelo* editor

1. Throughout the book, Ortega illustrates many details of everyday life. Examine a panel or series of panels with compelling detail such as background elements, people, or action. What is the significance of these numerous details?
2. Review the use of color palettes throughout the novel. What do you notice about the change of colors? How do those shifts distinguish and tie together different parts of the story?
3. *Días de Consuelo* is a story involving multiple generations. What do the interactions among the different generations tell us about life in Mexico during this time? What interactions or dialogue among family members seem like they could take place today?
4. The novel includes major themes such as the effects of war, displacement, immigration, and family. How are some of these themes connected and what other themes arise throughout? How are those additional themes conveyed?
5. Why does Isabel choose to sit at the front of the church, separated from her family and the front door, despite the danger of bombs?
6. During the section on Consuelo's birth and baptism, Ortega also introduces the status of the Mexican Revolution at the time. He uses alternating panels to contrast the celebration of Consuelo with historical information. Why might the author have chosen to construct the story this way? What is the effect for the reader?
7. Ortega occasionally uses silent panel sequences to convey powerful moments of the narrative. How might the experience of reading these sequences differ from other parts of the novel? What is the power of these "silent" panels?
8. Ultimately, *Días de Consuelo* is a story about war. What does following Consuelo's journey during the Mexican Revolution tell us about what war does to families and communities as well as how it changes the concept of "home"?