

# *Unit 1* *Personal* *Narratives*

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Lesson 4: Sensory Details



# Vocabulary

## VOCABULARY

### Core Vocabulary

**guava, n.** tropical fruit

**prickly, adj.** pointy

**embedded, adj.** set firmly in

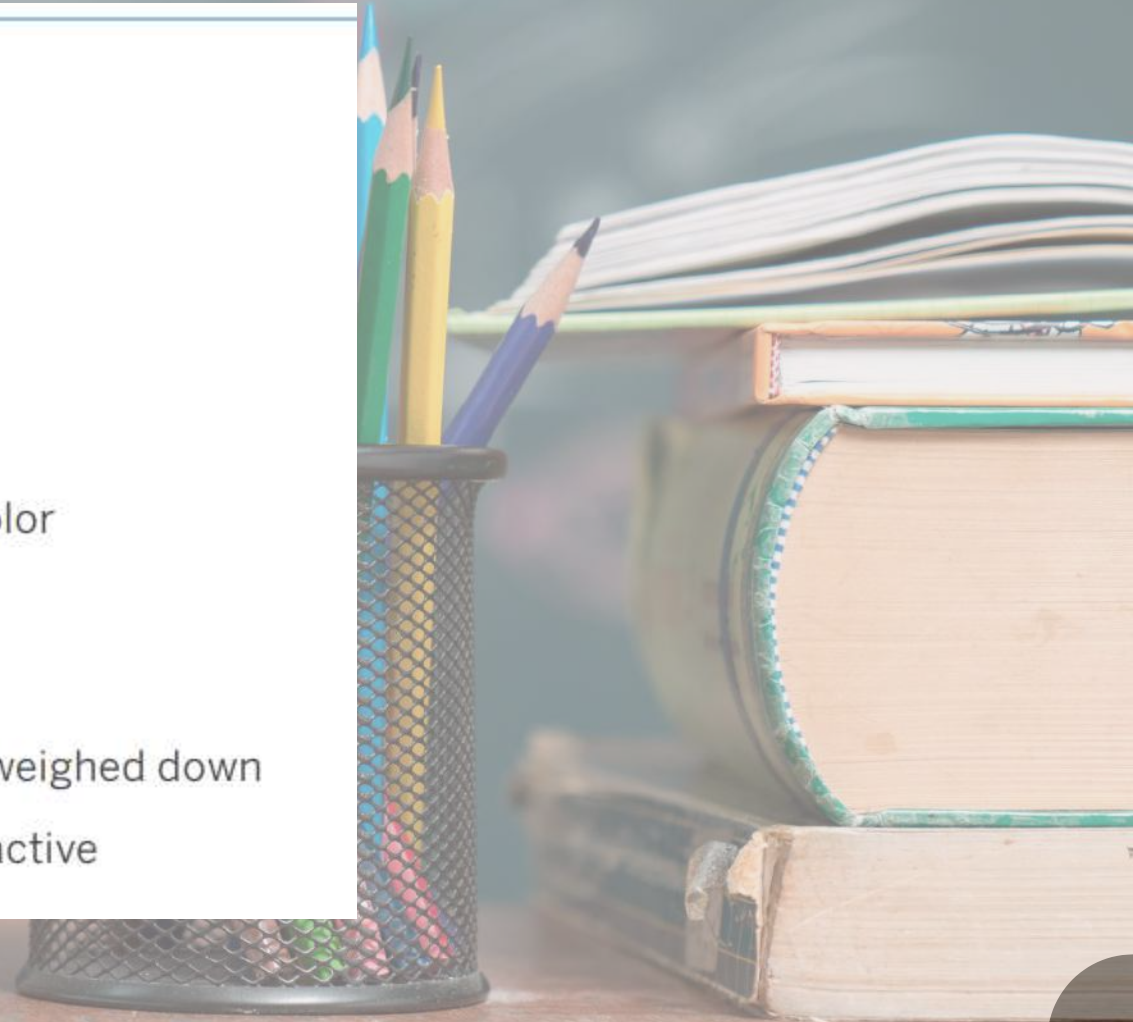
**tinge, n.** a small amount of color

**crevices, n.** narrow spaces

**edible, n.** possible to eat

**laden, adj.** heavily loaded or weighed down

**enticing, adj.** appealing, attractive



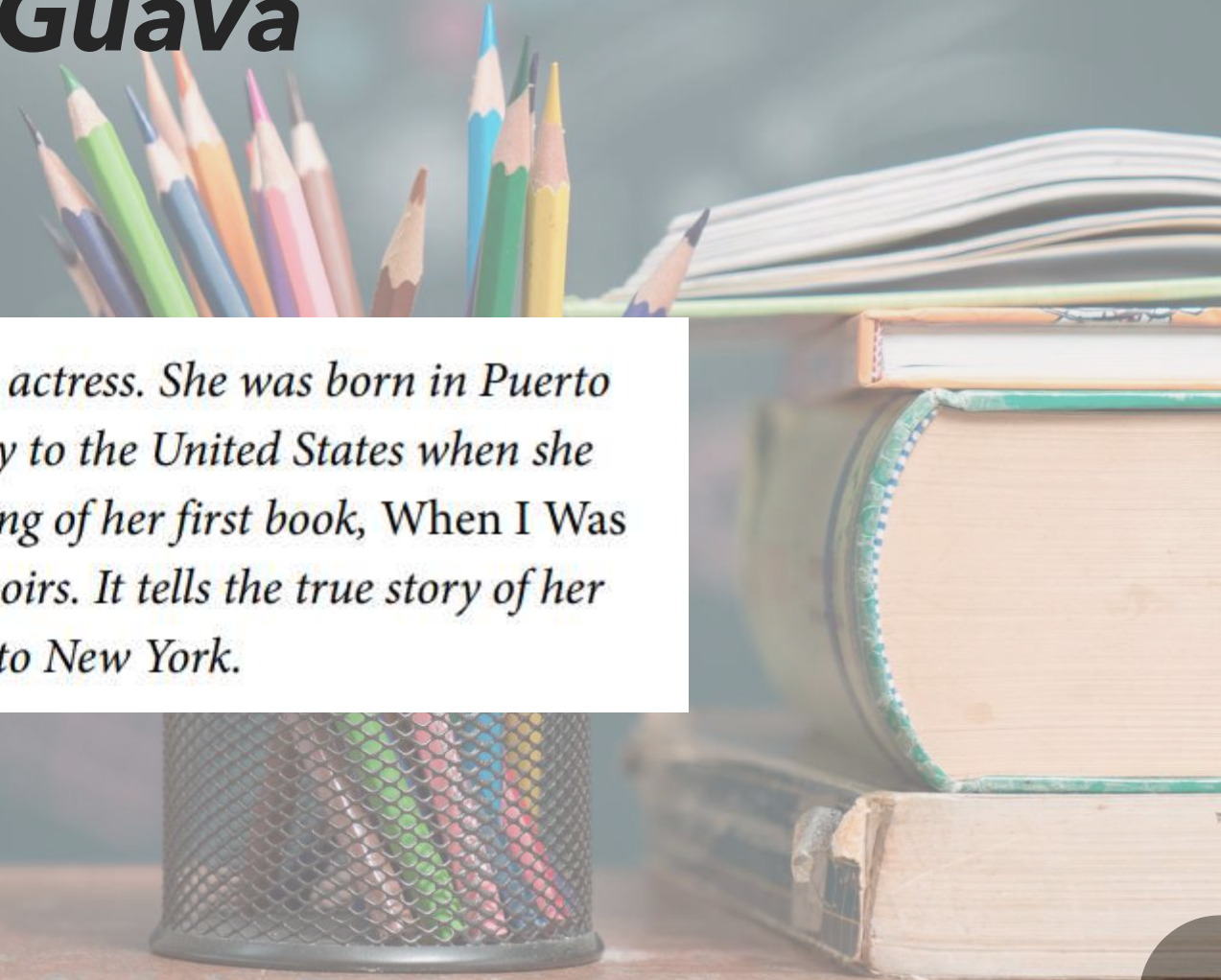


# ***When I was Puerto Rican***

## ***Prologue: How to Eat a Guava***

➤ **By: Esmeralda Santiago**

*Esmeralda Santiago is a writer and actress. She was born in Puerto Rico in 1948, and moved with her family to the United States when she was thirteen. This excerpt is the beginning of her first book, When I Was Puerto Rican, the first of her three memoirs. It tells the true story of her childhood in Puerto Rico and the move to New York.*



# Act It Out!

## Activity 4.1

- Where is the narrator?
- Why is she there?
- What *verbs/actions* did you see?

There are **guavas** at the Shop & Save. I pick one the size of a tennis ball and finger the **prickly** stem end. It feels familiarly bumpy and firm. The guava is not quite ripe; the skin is still a dark green. I smell it and imagine a pale pink center, the seeds tightly **embedded** in the flesh.

### Identify and Draw the Action

1. Record the actions from "How to Eat a Guava."

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# Act It Out!

## Activity 4.1

- **What specific *actions* did you see?**
- **Where does this story take place?**
- **Do you think guavas and mangos are common in New York? Why?**

Today, I stand before a stack of dark green guavas, each perfectly round and hard, each \$1.59. The one in my hand is **tempting**. It smells faintly of late summer afternoons and hopscotch under the mango tree. But this is autumn in New York, and I'm no longer a child.

The guava joins its sisters under the harsh fluorescent lights of the exotic fruit display. I push my cart away, toward the apples and pears of my adulthood, their nearly seedless ripeness predictable and bittersweet.

### Identify and Draw the Action

1. Record the actions from "How to Eat a Guava."

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# Comic Strip

## Activity 4.1

- Describe the *actions* from the 3 paragraphs in complete sentences!
- Put them in the correct order!
- Use capital letters and punctuation!

2. Follow the instructions below to draw the narrative as a comic strip.

A. Write four sentences describing the action in the narrative. Look at the first paragraph and the last two paragraphs of the narrative in your Reader as a reminder of the action.

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

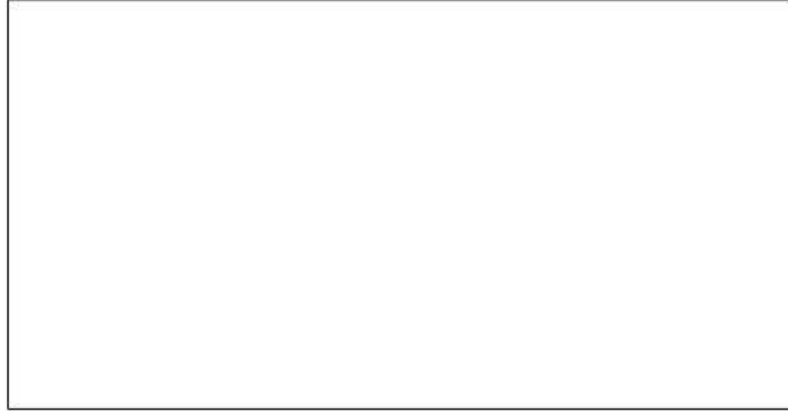
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# Comic Strip

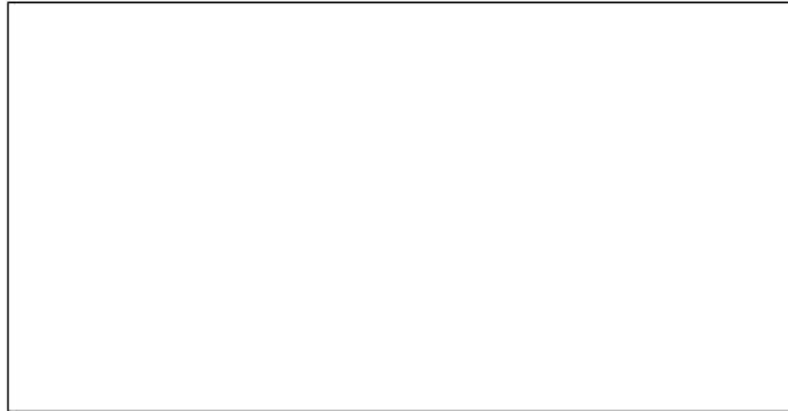
## Activity 4.1

- Write the sentences in part A as the captions for your comic.
- Remember to use correct grammar!
- Draw an illustration for each sentence.

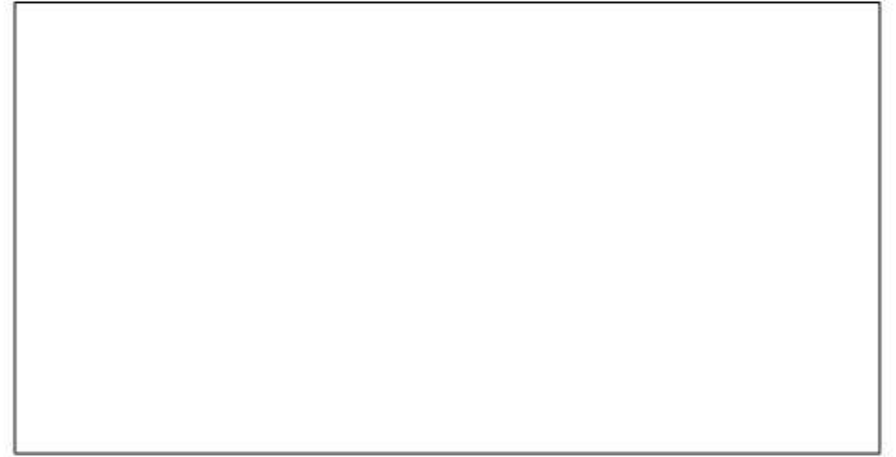
B. Draw an illustration for each sentence. Remember that in your cartoon you can also draw or write what characters are thinking.



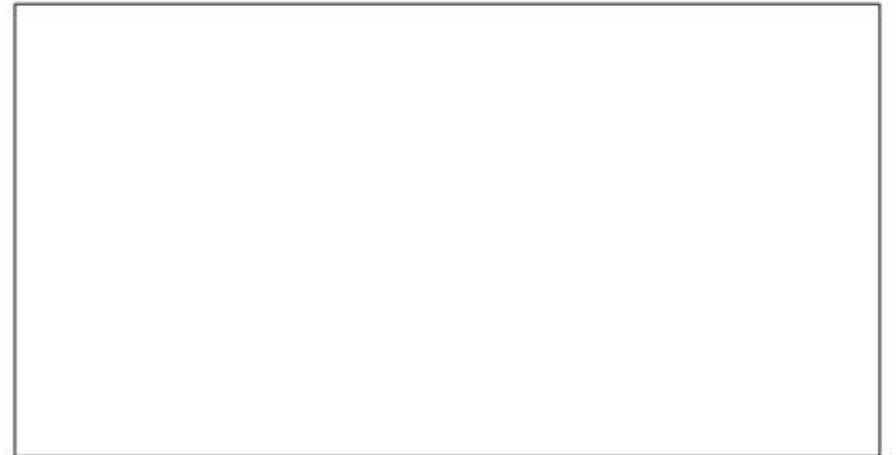
Caption: \_\_\_\_\_



Caption: \_\_\_\_\_



Caption: \_\_\_\_\_



Caption: \_\_\_\_\_



# Sensory Details

- What word do you see in the word *sensory*?





# Sensory Details

- What word do you see in the word *sensory*? **Sense**
- What are the five senses?



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- What word do you see in the word *sensory*? **Sense**
- What are the five senses?
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- What do you think we mean by *sensory details* in a personal narrative?



# Sensory Details

- What word do you see in the word *sensory*? **Sense**
- What are the five senses?
  - **Sight, Hearing, Touch, Taste, Smell**
- What do you think we mean by *sensory details* in a personal narrative?
  - **Details that describe what the narrator saw, heard, felt, tasted or smelled**





# When I Was Puerto Rican

## Prologue: How To Eat A Guava

by Esmeralda Santiago

*Esmeralda Santiago is a writer and actress. She was born in Puerto Rico in 1948, and moved with her family to the United States when she was thirteen. This excerpt is the beginning of her first book, When I Was Puerto Rican, the first of her three memoirs. It tells the true story of her childhood in Puerto Rico and the move to New York.*

*Barco que no anda, no llega a puerto.*

*A ship that doesn't sail, never reaches port.*

There are **guavas** at the Shop & Save. I pick one the size of a tennis ball and finger the **prickly** stem end. It feels familiarly bumpy and firm. The guava is not quite ripe; the skin is still a dark green. I smell it and imagine a pale pink center, the seeds tightly **embedded** in the flesh.

A ripe guava is yellow, although some varieties have a pink **tinge**.



The skin is thick, firm, and sweet. Its heart is bright pink and almost solid with seeds. The most delicious part of the guava surrounds the tiny seeds. If you don't know how to eat a guava, the seeds end up in the **crevices** between your teeth.

When you bite into a ripe guava, your teeth must grip the bumpy surface and sink into the thick **edible** skin without hitting the center. It takes experience to do this, as it's quite tricky to determine how far beyond the skin the seeds begin.

Some years, when the rains have been plentiful and the nights cool, you can bite into a guava and not find many seeds. The guava bushes grow close to the ground, their branches **laden** with green then yellow fruit that seem to ripen overnight. These guavas are large and juicy, almost seedless, their roundness **enticing** you to have one more, just one more, because next year the rains may not come.

As children, we didn't always wait for the fruit to ripen. We raided the bushes as soon as the guavas were large enough to bend the branch.







A green guava is sour and hard. You bite into it at its widest point, because it's easier to grasp with your teeth. You hear the skin, meat, and seeds crunching inside your head, while the inside of your mouth explodes in little spurts of sour.

You **grimace**, your eyes water, and your cheeks disappear as your lips purse into a tight O. But you have another and then another, enjoying the crunchy sounds, the acid taste, the gritty texture of the unripe center. At night, your mother makes you drink **castor oil**, which she says tastes better than a green guava. That's when you know for sure that you're a child and she has stopped being one.

I had my last guava the day we left Puerto Rico. It was large and juicy, almost red in the center, and so **fragrant** that I didn't want to eat it because I would lose the smell. All the way to the airport I scratched at it with my teeth, making little dents in the skin, chewing small pieces with my front teeth, so that I could feel the texture against my tongue, the tiny pink pellets of sweet.

Today, I stand before a stack of dark green guavas, each perfectly round and hard, each \$1.59. The one in my hand is **tempting**. It smells faintly of late summer afternoons and hopscotch under the mango tree. But this is autumn in New York, and I'm no longer a child.

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# How to Eat a Guava

## Activity 4.2

### Sensory Details

Find the sensory details in the first four paragraphs of “How to Eat a Guava” and write them in the “Sensory Details” column. Some examples have been provided.

Sense	Sensory Details
Sight	size of a tennis ball
Touch	prickly
Taste	sweet
Smell	

# Writing with Sensory Details

## *Brainstorming*

- **What is your favorite place to eat?**
  - **A restaurant?**
  - **Your house?**
  - **A relative's house?**





# Writing with Sensory Details

## *Brainstorming*

- **What is your favorite place to eat?**
  - **A restaurant?**
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- **What do you see?**
- **What do you taste?**
- **What do you hear?**
- **What do you smell?**
- **What do you touch/feel?**



# Writing with Sensory Details

## *Brainstorming*

- **What is your favorite place to eat?**
  - **A restaurant?**
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- **What do you hear?**
- **What do you smell?**
- **What do you touch/feel?**



**\*Turn and Talk\***  
**Share your ideas with a partner!**



# Writing with Sensory Details

## Organizer

**Sight**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Sound**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Favorite Restaurant:**

**Touch**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Smell**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

