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TPRS Books is an important business! We are open and shipping as fast as we can! Find out more about our Covid-19 response. Dismiss Vida y muerte en la Mara Salvatrucha is a compelling read for students in levels 3 and up. Written by an anonymous author, it provides a glimpse into the life of a young man entrenched in the ranks of the world's most dangerous gang, MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha 13. Far from glorifying the life of the gang, this is an eye-opening story of how tightly the tentacles of the gang wrap around each member, and how the decision to join a gang overshadows any hope of ever maintaining a relationship outside the gang or leading an independent life. In addition to our extensive and recently updated Teacher Guide, we have decided to gather and share online resources to improve your students' experiences with this novel and make deeper and more meaningful connections. We hope that you will find these resources useful and that you will feel free to share additional resources in the comments. Pinterest Council curated Fugitive issues for Vida y Muerte en la Mara Salvatrucha. Pre-learning novel Many teachers prefer to teach about the civil war in El Salvador, which was one of the main incentives to the events leading up to the creation of MS-13. Amanda Mora talks about how she approaches the beginning of this novel. Chapter 1 Carrie Toth shares ideas. Chapter 2 Allison Weinhold recommends the song Kalle From Los Rakas Chapter 3 Carrie Toth shares ideas. Chapter 4 Casas de Caron This song is present in the film and it refers to the class differences between rich and poor, elements that lead to civil war. This is a video slideshow of images set on the song. Chapter 8 Destiny of Children: Legacy of War and Gangs by Donna DeCesare For Chapter 8 and some of the following chapters, you can use the Kids of Destiny website as a means of enriching the reading experience. As far as you know, Destiny's Children is a photo and text documentary that focuses on the social consequences of latin american civil war and how war has contributed to many aspects of Latin American gang culture. The documentary website features the personal stories of four young people who participated in the La Mara Salvatrucha and The Eighteenth Street gangs. In addition to telling these personal stories, the website hosts a wealth of information about the history of Latin America and organizations that work to help young people associated with gangs. In Chapter 8 of the novel, the narrator confronts his brother Pedro because he does not follow gang rules to perform his duties. Pedro warns his brother that there will be consequences for him if he stays with Analia by denying his duties to the gang. Within the MS-13 gang, there is a system by which leaders will decide to discipline, or give trial to one of their members. In order to this discipline, which is held in MS-13, you can visit Link to Destiny's Children: This link will lead you to read the personal story of Edgar, a young Salvadoran associated with MS-13. In addition to understanding Edgar's personal story of how he became involved in the gang, you will see in the second segment that the gang decides to give trial to one of its members. Chapter 9 In Chapter 9, the narrator again confronts Pedro about his disregard for gang duties. This time he was presented with an ultimatum and told that he should take the money from His grandmother Analia or face the consequences. What if the narrator decides that he wants to run away and get some help to leave the gang... Is there anyone who is willing to help? Check out the following reference to Homies Unidos, an organization that helps prevent community violence and helps young people leave their gangs. The link below will lead you and your students directly to the Epiphany Project and another link to Homies Unidos' tattoo removal program. When you're done reading these pages, you can continue to explore what Homies Unidos has to offer at-risk youth. 10 In Chapter 10 Gustavo wakes up the narrator to tell him that his brother Pedro was killed in the shooting. For a deeper understanding of the gang associated with the drive-by shooting you can view the following video link with your students: In this video Anderson Cooper CNN interviews his father on the hiring victim. Father, understanding the gangs and how they think and act, gives a great idea of the mentality of the gang members. He explains why gangs take revenge and why they never go to the police. This video raises some great discussion points for students. Chapter 11 In Chapter 11 the narrator turns back into the gang as he decides to avenge The Murder of Pedro. Did he have any other options? In Beyond the Text Chapter 9, you're introduced to Homies Unidos, an organization that works with youth involved in gangs and helps them look for non-gang outlets to work through their problems. Homies Unidos is not alone in this effort. You can check out the work of Homeboy Industries, a Los Angeles-based organization that works to give gang members a new start and a new direction in life. Their slogan: Nothing stops a bullet like work. Check out this video link that gives an overview of the organization and then go to check out their website and see how many former gang members have taken their lives in a new direction. Homeboy Industries Web : Chapter 12 Chapter 12 narrator finds himself in court charged with the murder of a rival 18th Street gang member. A real report on the same scenario can be found here at the following link on the United States FBI website. Although class this is a fictional account, unfortunately, it is based on real events. You may want to read this article with your students and discuss the futility of using violence and revenge to solve your problems. If gangs continue to commit revenge killings for killing their members, when will the violence ever stop? Chapter 13 Chapter 13, the narrator is sentenced to life imprisonment. In the United States and abroad there are many gang members imprisoned for their crimes. For many, their gang affiliations go with them and cause serious problems inside the prison system. For more information on this topic, you can check out the following link from MSNBC News and share it with your students. Chapter 14 In Chapter 14, the narrator talks about his gang friends. He says that as soon as he went to prison, he was abandoned. This raises the question of whether they ever had a true friendship if they just gave it up at a difficult time. For a real-life account of how some MS-13 members treated their friend in the gang, you can check out the following link to an article and video from CBS News. This piece describes the story of Brenda Paz, an MS-13 member who was killed by her friends when she wanted to leave the gang and later became a police informant. If you decide to use this article in class, please review the text as it contains detailed information about the killing that may not be suitable for your students. You can simply summarize the story to discuss the meaning of true friendship. blog post written by Christy Placido compared to other books from TPRS that I've read, this is my favorite to date. It was amazingly informative and I got to learn a lot about the most dangerous gang in almost the whole world, MS13. The book was narrated by the voice of the narrator, who was part of the gang. It starts by sharing the history of the gang and it's forming. MS13 was originally formed by a group of immigrants who fled El Salvador because of the war. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, they found that the danger from El Salvador compared to other books from TPRS that I read is my favorite to date. It was amazingly informative and I got to learn a lot about the most dangerous gang in almost the whole world, MS13. The book was narrated by the voice of the narrator, who was part of the gang. It starts by sharing the history of the gang and it's forming. MS13 was originally formed by a group of immigrants who fled El Salvador because of the war. When they arrived in Los Angeles, they found that the danger from El Salvador was as bad as the mistreatment of the Mexican gang that had declared these immigrants a threat to their territory. To do this, the newly immigrated families began to leave the house and eventually formed a formed society to protect themselves and their families from the brutality of the Mexican gang. It turned out, however, that this small society would soon grow much worse than what they originally tried to protect themselves from. ... More Page 2 2

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