LAS MARIPOSAS

USE WITH: Units 9, 10

DURATION: 1–2 classes

STANDARDS:

English Language Arts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10

Social Studies: 2c, 4b, 4c, 5d, 6d, 6f

Foreign Language: 1, 2.1, 3, 4.2

GOAL: To research the lives of the Mirabal sisters.

OBJECTIVE:

To analyze why the Mirabal sisters are national heroines in the Dominican Republic.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Students brainstorm the characteristics of heroes and heroines from throughout the world. Who are their heroes or heroines? Why?

2. Introduce the story of the Mirabal sisters and show photographs of the Mirabal museum in the Dominican Republic (available online at several sites).

3. Students read the oral history of Doña Dedé Mirabal (unit 10).

4. The class views segments of the film, "In the Time of the Butterflies," specifically the parts to which Doña Dedé refers (see list of suggested segments below). The class can also read "Minerva," the excerpt from Julia Alvarez's novel, in connection with this activity (unit 9).

5. Afterwards, check students' comprehension by asking the following questions:

   • Who were the Mirabal sisters and why are they famous figures in Dominican history?

   • According to Doña Dedé, what did Minerva Mirabal believe about women? Why is this significant?

   • What did Trujillo think of the Mirabal family?

   • Why did the Mirabal sisters join the underground movement?

6. As a class, students make a list of the reasons why the Mirabal sisters (especially Minerva) are considered national heroines.

Lesson plan prepared by Claudia Bedoya-Rose.

ASSESSMENT: Using the list generated in class, each student writes a short essay giving three reasons why the Mirabal sisters are important figures in Dominican history. Teacher grades essay.

MATERIALS:

"In the Time of the Butterflies" (directed by Mariano Barroso, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 2003)

Suggested segments:

— Minerva's friend tells her about Trujillo

— The Mirabal sisters attend Trujillo's party

— Minerva is denied her law degree

— Minerva joins the underground movement