

Name:

Day One

Freedom University: Giving Undocumented Students a Chance

Part 1: Silent read

➔ What does a “freedom school” mean today? Read silently.

“I grew up listening to my teachers telling me—work hard, go to college.” Angel is an undocumented teenager. He went to school in Georgia. Angel took his teachers’ advice. He worked his “butt off” in high school. He got excellent grades. However, when it came time to apply to college, Angel had a problem.

In Georgia, there's a law. Undocumented kids can't go to the top state universities. At the other state schools, they have to pay out-of-state tuition. There's no federal funding either.

According to Angel’s mother, Angel “has very big dreams.” Angel’s mom wants her kids to have a better education than she had. She wants them “to have something to defend themselves with.”

Fortunately, there was a solution to Angel’s problem. Freedom University is an underground school. It’s designed for undocumented students like Angel. At Freedom University, students take classes that prepare them for college. But they also learn about social justice. They get trained how to be activists. They learn about how oppressed people throughout history have pushed back. “Education can be for liberation,” says Dr. Laura Emiko Soltis. She’s the school’s director.

“Freedom U. has really put me back in the fight,” Angel said. The good news is it’s a fight he won. Angel applied to college. He received a presidential scholarship to Tougaloo College in Mississippi! The scholarship will pay for Angel’s first three years there. “He wants to be someone in life,” Angel’s mom said. She spoke with pride.

Source: “Alex Montes,” *I’m First*.



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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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55

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85

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115
117

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140
154
168
181
188

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220
234
247

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What problem did Angel face in applying to college?

What do students at Freedom University learn about?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

“I grew up listening to my teachers telling me / —work hard, / go to college.” // Angel is an undocumented teenager. // He went to school in Georgia. // Angel took his teachers’ advice. // He worked his “butt off” / in high school. // He got excellent grades. // However, / when it came time to apply to college, / Angel had a problem. //

In Georgia, / there's a law. // Undocumented kids / can't go to the top state universities. // At the other state schools, / they have to pay out-of-state tuition. // There's no federal funding either. //

According to Angel’s mother, / Angel “has very big dreams.” // Angel’s mom wants her kids / to have a better education / than she had. // She wants them / “to have something to defend themselves with.” //

Fortunately, / there was a solution / to Angel’s problem. // Freedom University / is an underground school. // It’s designed for undocumented students / like Angel. // At Freedom University, / students take classes / that prepare them for college. // But they also learn about social justice. // They get trained how to be activists. // They learn about / how oppressed people throughout history / have pushed back. // “Education can be for liberation,” / says Dr. Laura Emiko Soltis. // She’s the school’s director. //

“Freedom U. / has really put me back in the fight,” / Angel said. // The good news is / it’s a fight he won. // Angel applied to college. // He received a presidential scholarship / to Tougaloo College in Mississippi! // The scholarship / will pay for Angel’s first three years there. // “He wants to be someone in life,” / Angel’s mom said. // She spoke with pride. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.