Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 3: Text a

Directions: Read the following text. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

Caught in the Middle

For some US kids, the big immigration debate is a family matter.

by Elena Cabral

What should happen to American kids whose parents are in the United States illegally?

Illegal immigration is a big national debate. Many Americans support stronger enforcement of immigration laws. They say illegal immigrants are putting a strain on US schools, hospitals, and police departments.

Recently, federal officers have been raiding businesses suspected of hiring illegal immigrants. Those arrested often face deportation. Some US kids are getting caught in the middle.

One Law for All?

About 3 million kids in the United States who are US citizens have either one parent or both who are not citizens. Their parents entered the United States illegally. If they are deported, their kids either have to leave with them or stay in the United States without them.

Some people say breaking up immigrant families is unfair. But others say that entering the United States without permission is against the law. They say people who break these laws should be punished, whether they have kids or not.

A Family's Story

Saul Arellano, 8, of Illinois, and his mother, Elvira Arellano, have for years lived with the fear of deportation.

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Saul was born in the United States and is a US citizen. But his mother is an illegal immigrant who faces deportation to Mexico, where she is from. She used to clean airplanes at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. In 2002, she was arrested and ordered to return to Mexico. Arellano tried to use legal means to stay in the United States. When those did not work, she went to a local Chicago church with Saul in August and has been taking shelter there.

Since then, Saul has traveled around the country with supporters of his mom. He speaks out, in hopes that he can persuade lawmakers to allow his mom to stay in the United States.

"I don't want her to go to Mexico," Saul said. "Who's going to take me to school? Who's going to buy me clothes so I can go to school?"

But the family's actions have made some people angry. US federal officials say Elvira Arellano is a fugitive who is wrongly avoiding her punishment. Some critics say Saul is a kid, and that it is unfair to involve him.

But Elvira Arellano says she had to come to the United States. She says her parents were ill and there were no jobs that paid enough money to support herself and her family in Mexico. She says she and others like her wanted to escape poverty in a country that has struggled economically.

About 78 percent of illegal immigrants in the United States are from Mexico and other parts of Latin America, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, a research group. "All we want to do is work to give a better future to our kids," Elvira Arellano says.

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Lesson 3: Practice Test a

Reading Text Closely

Directions: Use "Caught in the Middle" to answer the questions.

1. **Underline all sentences from the excerpt below that support the idea that many immigrants come to the United States for a better life.**

But the family's actions have made some people angry. US federal officials say Elvira Arellano is a fugitive who is wrongly avoiding her punishment. Some critics say Saul is a kid, and that it is unfair to involve him.

But Elvira Arellano says she had to come to the United States. She says her parents were ill and there were no jobs that paid enough money to support herself and her family in Mexico. She says she and others like her wanted to escape poverty in a country that has struggled economically.

About 78 percent of illegal immigrants in the United States are from Mexico and other parts of Latin America, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, a research group. "All we want to do is work to give a better future to our kids," Elvira Arellano says.

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2. According to this passage, why do Americans want stronger enforcement of immigration laws? Circle the two correct answers.

A) Too many businesses are hiring illegal immigrants.

B) Illegal immigrants are putting a strain on schools.

C) American citizens can't find jobs because of the number of immigrants.

D) The number of illegal immigrants is putting too many demands on hospitals.

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3. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: According to the passage, what is a result of officers raiding businesses?

A) Illegal immigrants are taking shelter in buildings.

B) Illegal immigrants are protesting their deportation.

C) Some illegal immigrants are coming back into the United States.

D) Parents have to choose to leave their children or take them with them.

Part B: Choose a sentence from the passage that supports the answer to Part A.

A) "Since then, Saul has traveled around the country with supporters of his mom."

B) "If they are deported, their kids either have to leave with them or stay in the United States without them."

C) "When those did not work, she went to a local Chicago church with Saul in August and has been taking shelter there."

D) "But Elvira Arellano says she had to come to the United States. She says her parents were ill and there were no jobs that paid enough money to support herself and her family in Mexico."

4. Underline the sentence from the excerpt below that supports the idea that illegal immigrants with children should not be deported.

But the family's actions have made some people angry. US federal officials say Elvira Arellano is a fugitive who is wrongly avoiding her punishment. Some critics say Saul is a kid, and that it is unfair to involve him.

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