

**ASSIGNMENT TASK:**

Choose **TWO stories** from the boxes below.

Watch or read the story and answer the questions in PART II.

<a href="#"><u>Repairing Broken Bonds: How Families Rebuild Ties After Migration</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>For an Agricultural Worker, Supporting His Family Means Being Separated From Them</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Beijing's Rat Tribe: The Chinese Dream Goes Underground</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Intersex, and Proud</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Abby Dreams of Space</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Alone in a Pandemic</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Women on the Move</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>A teenager starting over in Canada</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Life After Deportation</u></a>

**PART II:**

Answer the questions as it pertains to the story you read or watched:

**Story ONE**

Name of story:	Beijing's Rat Tribe: The Chinese Dream Goes Underground
Name of Reporter(s):	Chi Yin Sim

1. What is the perspective of the story?

The perspective of this story is of the Chinese migrants who are a part of the “Beijing Rat Tribe,” which is a derogatory term used to describe the people who live in underground homes because they are unable to afford an apartment in Beijing.

2. Summarize the story. Note key moments, your thoughts, feelings, reactions as you read/watched.

The Beijing Rat Tribe is a derogatory term that is used in relation to the Chinese people who live in underground cells in Beijing. Many of these people migrated to Beijing in hopes of reaching the “Chinese dream,” which is to live an upper middle-class life, and get a prestigious job or education. Wei Kuan, who is a young Chinese office worker, lives in one of these underground homes. He works hard during the day and hopes to live above ground soon. Currently, he faces discrimination because he is a part of the “rat tribe.”

As I read this story, I was shocked to learn about the detailed story of the life of a person in the “Beijing Rat Tribe.” I understood that some people lived under the buildings of Beijing, but did not realize how small the “cells” were until I viewed this photo:



It saddens me to learn that so many people live like this. According to the article, the rat tribe “number one million in a city of 21 million.” This means that one million people in Beijing currently live under Beijing because they can not afford to live above ground. Although this is disturbing, it also makes me extremely grateful for the life I have. I am more grateful than ever to have a nice, spacious home that is clean and safe.

**3. What could be the reporter’s purpose for reporting this story?**

I believe that the reporter’s purpose for reporting this story was to inform people of the living situations in China. A while ago, I read a story about how people in foreign countries had to live in small cells instead of an actual apartment. However, it did not give much detail, besides a picture of a person sitting in a small area. This story was most likely written to humanize the “rat people,” and show that they were normal people with dreams of making a better life for themselves.

**4. What theme(s) from this story could be applied to our unit of study about culture and identity so far this year?**

Some of the themes from this story that could be applied to our unit of study about culture and identity are:

- How we view and treat others because of their differences.
- How cultural beliefs and goals influence a person’s actions.

**5. If you could meet anyone in the story or the journalist(s) who reported this story, what questions would you ask?**

If I could meet anyone in the story, I would want to interview one of the people who lives underground. I would ask them more details about how they live in such a small space. How do they cook their food? Where do they shower and use the bathroom? I would also like to know more about the discrimination they face as members of the Rat Tribe. By interviewing a member of the Beijing Rat Tribe, I hope to gain information from a first person perspective.

**Story TWO**

Name of story:

Life After Deportation

Name of Reporter(s)	Nina Shapiro, Erika Schultz Schultz, Corinne Chin
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**1. What is the perspective of the story?**

The perspective of this story is from people who currently reside in Mexico due to deportation from the United States. In this story, the author specifically notes the lives of the Valdez family.

**2. Summarize the story. Note key moments, your thoughts, feelings, reactions as you read/watched.**

This Pulitzer Center story reported on the Valdez family, who were deported from the United States. The father, Rafael, started a family with wife Joy, in the Seattle area where they had daughters Catalina and Maya. In 2013, Rafael was deported to Mexico. Not wanting to separate the family, Joy decided to move the family to Mexico where they currently live in the city of Zacatecas. Since their arrival, the family has faced many hardships, such as the dangers of violence, their daughters struggling to fit in at school, and feelings of desperation. The family longs to go back to the Seattle area, but does not know when that time will come.

While reading this story, I was filled with feelings of sorrow, because of the hardships and trauma that the Valdez family had to face because of the poor treatment that they faced after being deported. One of the quotes from the story that stood out to me was, "That pains him, as does his inability in Mexico to provide for his daughter as well as he would like. He can't afford a table for them to eat on." This quote talks about Rafael's friend Chavo Eudave de la Torre, who was deported in 2011. Chavo felt great sadness because he can barely care for his 11-year-old daughter. He is also upset because his daughter has forgotten how to speak English, despite living in South King County for six years.

**3. What could be the reporter's purpose for reporting this story?**

I believe that the reporter's purpose for reporting this story was to inform people of the effects deportation has on people, especially families, after they return to their home country. We often hear of news channels reporting on mass numbers of people being held for deportation or that x amount of people were deported, but we rarely hear about the lives of these people after they are deported. I believe that this story is supposed to inform people of the lifestyles and hardships that deportees have to face after leaving the United States.

**4. What theme(s) from this story could be applied to our unit of study about culture and identity so far this year?**

Some of the themes from this story that could be applied to our unit of study about culture and identity are:

- The Danger of a Single Story.
- How we treat people of different cultures or ethnicities based on social biases.
- How indigenous people or minorities are depicted in day to day life.

**5. If you could meet anyone in the story or the journalist(s) who reported this story, what questions would you ask?**

If you could meet anyone in the story, I would interview the family members of the deported family, specifically, the children. I would ask the children what their experiences moving to an unfamiliar country have been, and how it has affected them? I would want to know how children who were born

in the United States were adjusting to a new culture and language. By reporting on the hardships that the Valdez family experienced when they were forced to leave their homes for a country they are not prepared to live in, it would give a first-hand perspective on the matter, possibly causing the government to alter its methods.