

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE CRY OF DOLORES Readers Theatre

### Characters:

Narrators 1, 2    Father Hidalgo    Felipe    Arturo  
Mauricio    Maria    Sarita    Mama    Townspeople



### **SCENE ONE:**

Narrator 1: The year is 1810. The place is the Mexican town of Delores in the Spanish Colony of New Spain.

Maria: Do you hear that, Sarita?

Sarita: Someone must be ringing the bells at the church. I wonder why.

Maria: Mama, they're ringing the church bells. May Sarita and I go find out what's going on?

Mama: I suppose so, but wait a minute. Do you girls know where your brothers are?

Sarita: They went with their friend Mauricio to find Father Hidalgo. They're going to ask him if the olives are ready for picking.

Narrator 2: Father Hidalgo is the parish priest of Delores. He spends much of his time teaching the native people how to grow olives and grapes on their land.

Mama: Well, if you see Arturo and Felipe at the church, send them home. Those boys are too old to be wandering off without finishing their work.

Narrator 1: When Maria and Sarita reach the church, they see hundreds of people gathered out front. The girls stand in awe near the back of the crowd.

Narrator 2: The girls have a hard time seeing anything, but they can hear the sound of a familiar voice...

Father Hidalgo: Long live Independence! Long live Mexico! Death to bad government!

Townspeople: Si! Viva Mexico!

Father Hidalgo: For too long the Spaniards have treated us like the dirt beneath their feet! We will no longer stand for the taxes that rob us of our right to succeed while they sit on their thrones an ocean away!

Townspeople: Grito!

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Father Hidalgo: People of Mexico, you have the ability to be more than subjects and servants to the Spanish. Although they treat us like slaves, we are their equals! Together we can gain our freedom and create our own government! Join with me! Together we will fight! Together we will win!

Arturo: I will join you Father Hidalgo!

Felipe and Mauricio: So will we!

Maria: Arturo! Felipe! What's happening?

Sarita: What are all of these people doing here, and why is Father Hidalgo shouting? I have never seen him so—so...

Maria: So angry.

Sarita: Yes, but why?

Felipe: The Spanish soldiers came by the crops today and chopped down all of the grape vines and olive trees. We have nothing left...

Mauricio: First the high taxes, and now they have made it illegal for us to grow grapes and olives.

Arturo: From now on, only the Spanish are allowed to grow and sell them. The Spanish are greedy and selfish. They want all the money for themselves. We have to fight this!

Mauricio: The Spanish are bad rulers. We need to be rid of them. They look down their noses at us; think they're better than we are.

Narrator 2: As they speak, Father Hidalgo approaches.

Father Hidalgo: Men, are you ready to fight? We leave tomorrow.

Maria: What!?

Sarita: Where are you going!?

Father Hidalgo: The rebellion will march through the country and drive out the Spanish. The people of Mexico don't need a Spanish king. It's time for us to rule ourselves.

Mauricio: We will meet you as soon as we have gathered supplies, Father. Nothing will stop us.

Arturo and Felipe: Yes, Father. We're with you. We'll be ready first thing in the morning.

Maria: But will Mama allow it?

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Sarita: Don't worry, Maria. I think Mama will be proud.

## **SCENE TWO:**

Narrator 1: Within days, Hidalgo's army had grown to twenty-thousand people.

Narrator 2: It is nighttime. Felipe, Arturo, and Mauricio are camped outside the capital of Guanajuato with the thousands of other Mexicans who have joined the rebellion.

Felipe: Do you think we'll ever get a chance to talk with Father Hidalgo?

Arturo: I think we'll be lucky to catch a glimpse of him through this mob. Who knew that so many people were as furious as we were when the Spaniards destroyed our crops?

Mauricio: All those years we spent learning how to grow grapes and olives were wasted. Why do the Spanish need to control Mexico? They have their own country to manage.

Felipe: Let's hope we'll be free of them soon. But right now we'd better make a fire and settle for the night. We have a big day ahead of us.

Arturo: Look. Here comes Father Hidalgo now.

Father Hidalgo: Buenas noches. Are you soldiers ready for tomorrow?

Arturo: Yes sir, we're ready. You can count on us to do our best.

Mauricio: The Spanish may be better armed, but they won't be expecting as large an army as ours, or such a brave one.

Felipe: Mauricio's right. Their soldiers have the weapons and training, but we have determination and true dedication to our families and our land.

Father Hidalgo: That's the spirit! Tomorrow as we march through the city streets, remember that we are fighting for the right to create our own government. We are fighting against the way the Spanish have treated our people for centuries. We fight for a new beginning. It may take a bit longer than we hope, but united we cannot fail.

Narrator 1: Unfortunately, Father Hidalgo would not live to see his dream of Mexican Independence come true.

Narrator 2: In 1811, Hidalgo was captured and executed by the Spanish. But the soldiers kept fighting, and ten years later, Mexico won its dependence from Spain.