

Integration Guide for [My Beautiful Nicaragua, a BYkids film directed by Edelsin Linette Mendez](#)

From BYkids:

12-year-old Edelsin Linette Mendez lives with her siblings and parents on their small coffee farm in the beautiful highlands of Nicaragua. This is the first film for Season Two of Films BYkids on PBS broadcasting in 2017.

The farming of coffee in Nicaragua has supported the Mendez family and thousands like them for generations, with coffee accounting for 30 percent of the country's exports. As a result of climate change, increasing temperatures and erratic rainfall now facilitate the growth of "La Roya" fungus that kills the coffee crop. In the last three years alone, the Mendez family harvest has been reduced over 50 percent by this fungus, forcing them into poverty.

Since climate change knows no borders, this phenomenon is also ravaging coffee crops beyond Nicaragua, ruining at least half of the one million acres of coffee planted in Central America. USAID estimates that Central American Coffee Production will fall by up to 40 percent in the next few years, with possible job losses as high as 500,000.

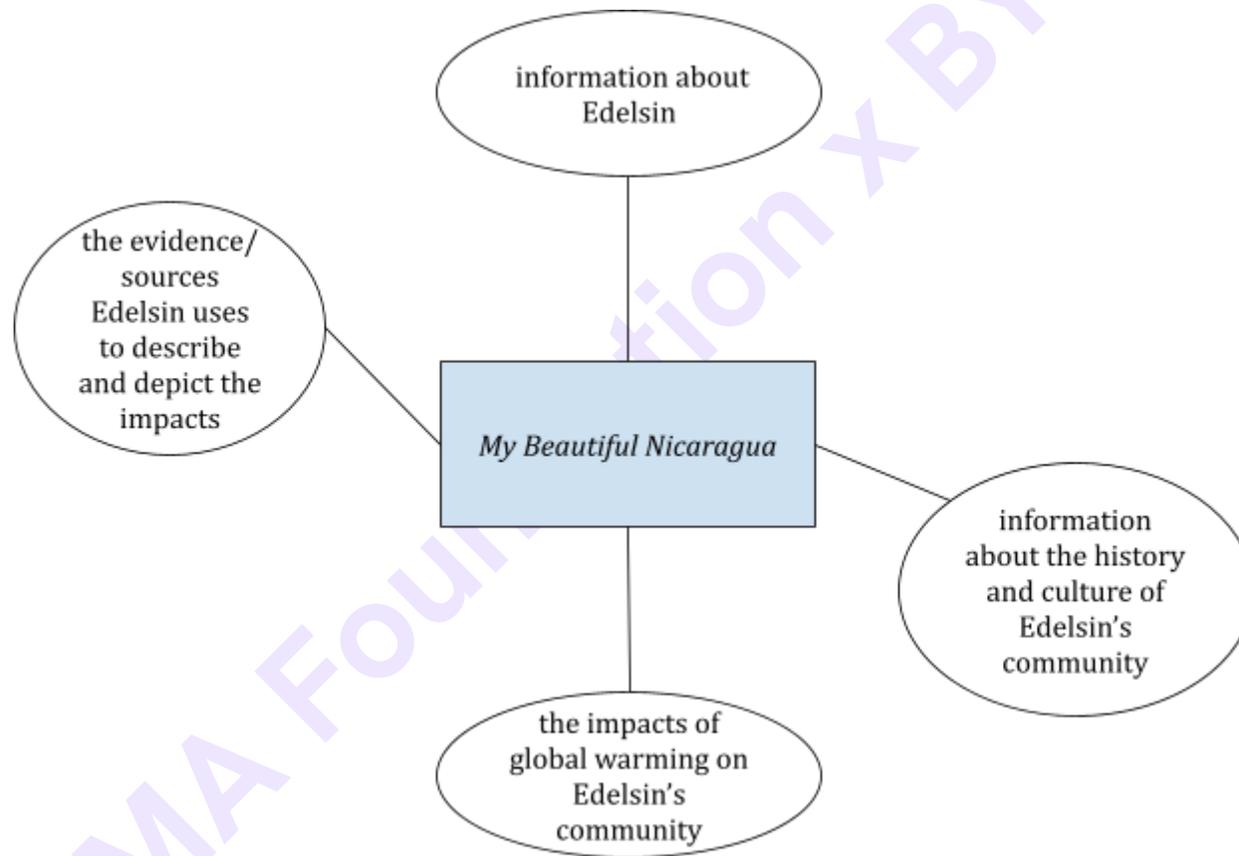
These decreases in production also mean drastically reduced incomes for these small farmers, making it prohibitively expensive for them to control this disease.

Goal: Synthesize understanding of 1) the causes and effects of global warming, 2) the effective use of a variety of sources to convey a factual narrative, and 3) how perspective shapes narrative.

Step One: Watch the film at the link [here](#). Make sure you've selected the full film. Be sure to turn the captions on if needed.

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As you watch, take mind map notes in your notebook. Take notes about: 1) information about Edelsin, 2) information about the history and culture of Edelsin's community, 3) the impacts of global warming on Edelsin's community, 4) the evidence/sources Edelsin uses to describe and depict the impacts. See the example mind map below.



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Step Two: Storyboarding Project

Effects of Global Warming Storyboarding Project

While watching the documentary *My Beautiful Nicaragua*, we considered filmmaker Edelsin Linette Mendez's perspective on the effects of global warming, her depiction of her community, and her approach to story-telling.

You will create a storyboard in which you depict the causes and effects of global warming in your own community. A storyboard is a visual or graphic representation of a film, with each box representing a key scene. *You will not be required to actually create a documentary*, but will plan out your approach, the sources you would use, and the images and people you would feature.

The storyboard must depict:

- At least eight "panels" or scenes
- A description of the causes of global warming
- A description of one implication or effect of global warming in your community and your community's experiences of the impact.
- A depiction of some aspects of the history and culture of your community (think of Edelsin's explanation of the coffee industry and depiction of the Festival of El Señor de Esquipulas) (Note: this doesn't have to be directly connected to the impacts of global warming).
- Find and include **each** of the following. You can depict this on your storyboard as a simple sketch and the title.
 - Primary source (interview, firsthand account, speech, letter, original artwork, etc.)
 - Secondary source (newspaper article that summarizes or synthesizes, journal article, documentary)
 - Relevant map
 - Scientific diagram showing the cause of global warming
 - Graph or data table showing the effects over time

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Storyboard Brainstorm:

1) Which causes of global warming will you depict in your documentary?

2) Which implication or effect of global warming will you focus on?

3) Which aspects of the history and culture of your community (think of Edelsin’s explanation of the coffee industry and depiction of the Festival of El Señor de Esquipulas) (Note: this doesn’t have to be directly connected to the impacts of global warming) will you depict in your documentary?

In the boxes below, plan out what you will put in each of your eight scenes. Be sure to plan where you will include each of the required elements in the checklist above!

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Storyboard Research:

Find (using reliable sources) and link sources you can use for each of the required elements below.

- At least one primary source (interview, firsthand account, government report, speech, letter, original artwork, etc.)

- At least one secondary source (newspaper editorials/opinion piece, report, newspaper article that summarizes or synthesizes, documentary)

- At least one map

- At least one scientific diagram showing the cause of global warming

- A graph or data table showing the effects over time.

Written Explanation of Storyboard: Answer the following questions about your storyboard in complete sentences:

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How is your perspective and experience of global warming different from *and* similar to Edelsin's?

How was the way you told your story similar to and different from the way Edelsin told hers?

Source List: Include a URL for each source you used in your storyboard.

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