**Stef Soto, Taco Queen**  
*Jennifer Torres*

**GENRE:** Realistic Fiction  
**LEXILE:** 780

**RELEVANT WEBSITES:**  
[Author’s Site](#)  
[GoodReads Link](#)  
[Book Trailer](#)  
[Readers Theater](#)

**BOOK SUMMARY:** Estefania “Stef” Soto’s family owns a taco truck named Tia Perla. Stef is tired of being known as the “Taco Queen” by her classmates and wishes her Papi had a less embarrassing job. She longs to be ordinary. But when Stef finds out Tia Perla’s future may be in jeopardy, she realizes she may not be quite as ready to tell her goodbye as she thought.

**BOOKTALK:** Have you ever felt embarrassed by your parents? Has your mom or dad ever been overprotective? If you have, you’ll relate to seventh grader Stef Soto. Not only will her dad not let her walk home from school but he picks her up each day in Tia Perla, his taco truck. Her dad’s job has become such a big part of how her peers see Stef that a classmate calls her “Taco Queen.” Stef wishes her dad could get an ordinary job; but when Tia Perla’s future becomes uncertain, saying goodbye isn’t as easy as Stef expected. Should she find a way to save Tia Perla, or is time to let go? Read *Stef Soto, Taco Queen* and find out.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
1. Stef’s teacher assigns some strange journal prompts like “Imagine you can time travel but your parents don’t believe you. How would you convince them?” What are some things Stef is struggling to convince her parents of? Can you relate?
2. In Chapter 14, Stef’s mom gets called into work and Stef has to join her father on Tia Perla. What reasons does Mami give for why Stef can’t stay alone? How old do you think is old enough?
3. After Stef sells Viviana Vega burrito, people start saying she “knows” her. Is it dishonest for Stef to allow them to believe this? How should she have handled this situation?
4. Stef is dealing with social and family challenges throughout the story. What allows Stef to finally overcome her difficulties?

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS, YOU MIGHT ALSO ENJOY:**
1. *First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez  
2. *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
3. *Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff

**ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:** Cari Hudson/Teacher/Hamilton Southeastern Schools