Book Fiesta!

Celebrate Children’s Day/ Book Day a El día de los niños/ El día de los libros

Engagement Guide

A Bilingual Picture Book

Written by Pat Mora

Illustrated by Rafael Lopez

About the Book!

DRA level 18

Lexile Level K

Primary Grades K-3

Published by Harper Collins (2009)

Summary: This is a wonderfully illustrated picture book about how to celebrate Children’s Day/ Book Day. In Spanish and English, students are exposed to the bilingual story about ways to celebrate this holiday. Children’s imaginations soar through the adventures a book can offer, such as reading books in cars, trains, planes, or even on elephants!

Themes/ topics: Hispanic/ Latin American, Reading for pleasure

Awards:

● 2010 ALA Notable Children’s Book
● 2010 CCBC Choices (Cooperative Children’s Book Center)
● 2010 America’s Commended List
● 2010 Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts
● 2010 Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal Book
About the Author: Pat Mora
Pat Mora is a bilingual author who has written books with themes surrounding the ideas of family, Mexican-American culture, and the desert. In addition to writing children’s books, Pat has published poetry and nonfiction books for adults. She believes that the Hispanic perspective needs to be part of all children’s literature. Her ideas have sparked from her life of living in the desert. She is the recipient of:
  ● Pura Belpré award
  ● National Endowment of Arts Poetry Fellowship
  ● Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship
  ● 3 Southwest book awards

Visit her website at: http://www.patmora.com/

About the Illustrator: Rafael Lopez
Rafael Lopez is an award-winning illustrator and artist. In addition to his illustrations in children’s books, he has designed 7 stamps for the United States Post Service and the flyer for the National Book Festival Poster. He won the Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal for his book Drum Dream Girl in 2016. Awards he has won:
  ● 2010 Pura Belpré
  ● 2 Pura Belpré honors for illustrations in 2012 and 2006
  ● 2 America’s Book Awards

Visit his website at: http://rafaellopez.com/#/editorial/
History of the Holiday: El día de los niños/ El día de los libros

This holiday is celebrated every year on April 30th. The importance of this holiday is to celebrate the wonders and joy of reading and the value of celebrating all different cultures and languages. The celebration focuses on the necessity of literacy for children of all backgrounds and cultures.

The Día program was created by Pat Mora. The Día initiative is dedicated to connecting children and their families to diverse books and unify all children through the "world of books, stories, and libraries." Its official website can be found at http://dia.ala.org/

On April 27th, 2016 the holiday celebrated its 20th anniversary!

Additional Information can be found at: https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/eldia

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Vocabulary

- bilingual- spoken/ written in two languages
- día- Spanish word for day
- niños- Spanish word for children
- libros- Spanish word for books
Building Background Knowledge

- Look at the cover of the book. Have students make predictions on what they believe this book may be about. All predictions could be charted on an anchor chart.
- Watch the book trailer [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqZeovaCSy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqZeovaCSy). This book trailer can spark the students' interests about the book they are about to read.
- Discuss how we read a book
  - Where do you read?
  - Who do we read to?
  - What languages do we read in?
  - What types of books do we read?
- Teach the definition of bilingual
  - What does it mean for a person to be bilingual?
  - What does it mean for a book to be bilingual?
- Discuss the importance of reading. Students could write or record why they like to read and why they believe it is important to read.
- Learn how to say the word book and reading in various languages

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Book</th>
<th>To Read</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>libro</td>
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<td>French</td>
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<td>Portuguese</td>
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**Classroom Activities**

- Make their own book trailer for this book, highlighting the ways that students read books. This could be created using Educreations. [https://www.educreations.com/](https://www.educreations.com/)

- Create a flyer to encourage others in the school to celebrate El día de los niños/libros. These flyers can be created by hand or on Glogster [http://www.glogster.com/#love](http://www.glogster.com/#love)

- Write a letter to persuade the principal that the school should celebrate this holiday. Include ideas and activities in the letter that students and teachers could do to celebrate.

- Compare this book to another bilingual book. How are the bilingual authors similar? How are they different? The class could complete a Venn Diagram to compare these two authors in an author study.

- Invite a guest speaker to come into class and share a different language that they speak. The guest speaker could be another teacher or faculty member, a student’s family member, or a member of the community. While sharing with the class the guest could share books written in that language.

- Have students take pictures of each other in their favorite reading spot. Use the pictures to create a class collage to display in the classroom. The pictures could be displayed in the reading area of the classroom, showing visitors the love for reading the class has.

- Have students learn the Día Song. Lyrics and an example of a class singing it can be found at [http://www.patmora.com/dia-song/](http://www.patmora.com/dia-song/) Students could perform this for parents or other classmates on April 30th.
● Invite a guest speaker to read the book in Spanish. This guest could be a parent, another adult in the school, or a community member.

● Have students visit the official website for Día de los niños http://diaala.org/. Students may view it with a partner on an iPad or the teacher could project it for the whole class to explore together.

● Watch the author share how she came to write this book https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7wSgvp1k30 After, students could write a letter to the author asking a question they have for her after viewing her video. Students could also use her video to brainstorm a list of ideas they would like to write about.

● Listen to interviews with bilingual authors http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/dia. Students could compare their stories to the story of Pat Mora.

● Explore the pictures illustrated by Rafael Lopez. Inspire students to draw an image using his style and creation.

References


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This guide was created as part of a graduate course at Eastern Connecticut State University under the guidance of Susannah Richards,

“To enlighten, delight, and cultivate the minds of our students.”