

FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES



Abuela

Author: Arthur Dorros

Illustrator: Elisa Kleven

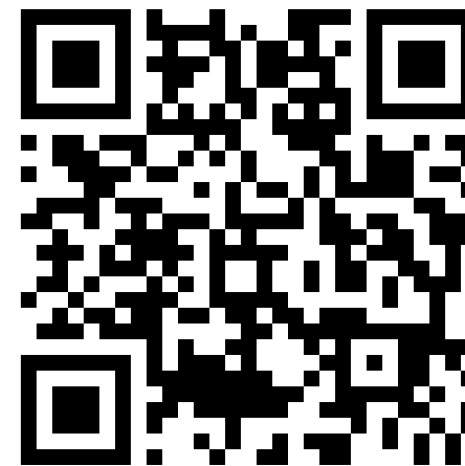
Activities Created by
Washburn University Education Major:
Betsy Marquez Robles

Summary of Abuela

Abuela is about a young girl named Rosalba who spends the day with her grandmother in the city. As they walk around the city, what starts as a normal day begins to feel like a fun adventure.

Rosalba can see the world in a new way while her Abuela teaches her Spanish words and shares parts of her culture. The story shows their close relationship and how spending time with family can make ordinary moments feel special.

Read Alouds



[English Youtube
Read-Aloud](#)



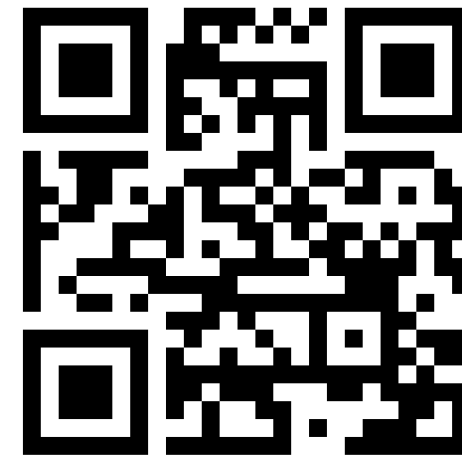
[Spanish Youtube
Read-Aloud](#)

Families should know that Abuela is available in an English version that includes some Spanish words with meanings explained in the story, as well as a full Spanish version, and both can easily be found on YouTube as a read-aloud.

About the Author and Illustrator

Arthur Dorros is known for writing children's books that celebrate family, culture, and language. In *Abuela*, he includes both English and Spanish to make the story feel warm and authentic. Elisa Kleven created the bright illustrations that helped bring Rosalba's adventure to life. Families can learn more by visiting the author's or illustrator's websites online.

Learn More



Arthur Dorros



Elisa Kleven

Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, connect to the characters, and build a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.



Before Reading

What kinds of adventures do you like to have with family members?

Looking at the book cover, what do you think might happen in this story and why?



During Reading

Why do you think Rosalba imagines flying with her Abuela?

Why do you think the author included Spanish words in the story?



After Reading

What does this story teach us about the importance of family relationships?

Do you think their flying was real or imagined? What makes you think that?

Extending the Book with Additional Reading

Since *Abuela* is a fictional story about family, language, and the relationship between a grandchild and grandmother, a great companion book is *Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina. This story also focuses on the special bond between a child and a grandmother while exploring communication and learning each other's language together. Families can compare how both grandmothers show love and support in different ways.



Talk About These Questions

- 1 How are the grandmothers alike and different?
- 2 How do both children learn from their grandmothers?
- 3 Why is language important in both stories?



Read Aloud Together

Mango, Abuela, and Me is also available on YouTube as a read-aloud, making it easy to enjoy together at home. Families can listen to the story, pause to discuss important parts, and compare it to *Abuela*.



[Mango, Abuela, and Me](#)
by Meg Medina



Extending the Book with Writing

Materials needed for this activity include paper and pencil/pen/crayons. Have your child imagine they are going on a flying adventure with a family member. Ask them to write 3-5 sentences about where they would go, what they would see, and how they would feel.

Sentence Starters

- ★ I would fly to
- ★ I would see
- ★ I would feel

Then have them draw a picture to match their writing. Families can help by writing down the child's words if needed.



Extending the Book with Math

Materials needed for this activity are paper and pencil/pen/crayons. Using the city theme from the book, your child can practice counting and problem-solving. Look through the pictures in the book and count objects such as birds, windows, cars, trees, or buildings.

Try These Math Problems

- 1 If there are 6 birds and 2 more join them, how many birds are there?
- 2 If Rosalba sees 10 open windows and 3 are closed, how many are left?

You can also sort objects by shape, such as rectangles for buildings or circles for wheels.

Encourage your child to write number sentences for the problems that you created together.



Extending the Book with Science



For this activity, you will need paper and pencil/pen/crayons. The story focuses on flying, so families can explore the science of flight. Begin by asking: How do birds and airplanes stay in the air? Explain to your child that birds flap their wings while airplanes use engines and shaped wings to lift into the sky.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1



Make 2 or 3 paper airplanes using different folds or sizes.



2



Have your child write down their prediction of which airplane will fly the farthest and why.



3



Test each airplane three times to make sure you can see patterns in the airplane flights.



4



Observe what happens and write down your observations. Does one fly straight? Does one fall quickly?



5



If possible, go outside and watch birds. Notice how they flap, glide, and turn in the air. Compare their movement to paper airplanes.

Look, compare, and learn!



vs.



Both birds and airplanes fly in amazing ways. What can we learn from nature to build better airplanes?



Extending the Book with Social Studies

For this activity, you will need paper and pencil/pen/crayons. A Family Heritage Interview would be a great activity to connect with the themes of family, culture, and traditions in **Abuela**. The story shows how Rosalba learns from her grandmother, so children can learn from their own family members too.



1

Help your child choose a family member to interview.



2

Then, have your child practice asking questions for the interview.



3

Possible Questions

What games did you play when you were little?
.....

What foods did your family cook?
.....

What language did you speak at home?
.....

What traditions did your family celebrate?



4

Have your child draw or write the answers on paper. You can also record the responses if your child needs assistance.



Discuss Together



What did you learn about your family member?
.....

How are their childhood experiences similar to yours?
.....

Why is it important to learn family stories and traditions?





Extending the Book with Art



For this activity you will need paper, pencil, and crayons/markers/colored pencils. Create a “Flying Over My Community” drawing using simple materials most families already have at home. This activity connects to Rosalba imagining she is flying high above the city with her grandmother.

1



Talk about what Rosalba saw while flying over the city in Abuela. Talk about buildings, streets, parks, cars, and people.

2



Include important places such as their house, school, park, store, or playground.

3



Draw a child and a family member flying above the neighborhood like Rosalba and Abuela.

4



Color the picture and add labels for places like home, school, or park.



Look up, draw, and imagine!

Share your community story through art.





LITERACY
BRIDGES