

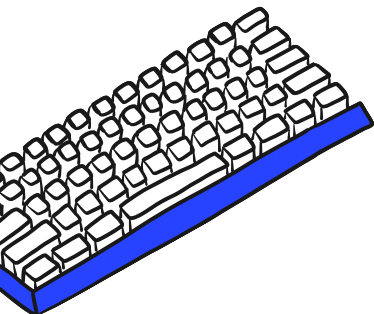
Tejas Star Reading List Presents



Activity Guide 2023-2024



WOW



FOLLOW

Acknowledgements

About this Guide

Prepared by the Tejas Star Reading List committee, this activity guide was designed to support using the 2022-23 Tejas Star Reading List titles with children ages 5-12 in classrooms and libraries.

About the Tejas Star Reading List

The Tejas Star Reading List (TSRL) provides a recommended reading list to encourage children ages 5-12 to explore multicultural books and to discover the cognitive and economic benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism. The Tejas Star Reading List is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum.

About the Texas Library Association

TLA was established in 1902 to promote, support, and improve library services in Texas. Our 6,000+ members are from all library types: academic, public, school and special. TLA provides expertly curated reading lists and programs for ages 2 - 102 - from fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels, to picture books, bilingual and multicultural lists.

2023-24 Tejas Star Reading List Committee:

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Johana Orellana Cabrera, Arlington Public Library, Past Chair



La bendición de Zahra: Una Historia de Ramadán (Zahara's Blessing: A Ramadan Story)

by Shirin Shamsi,
illustrated by Manal
Mirza,
translated by María A.
Pérez
(Barefoot Books,
2022).

Activity 1

Ramadan Arts & Crafts

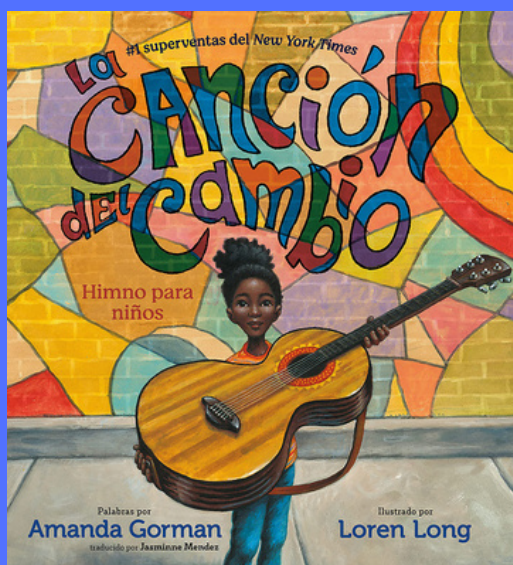
Learn more about this special holiday and find some activities to celebrate this special holiday. In this article by Parents magazine, create a fun calendar, practice philanthropy with a Sadaqat box, learn the phases of the moon, have fun with Henna paint, and get festive with Eid decor.

Activity 2

DIY Moon Phases Experiment

Get some hands-on fun as you create a model of the moon phases using a few simple household materials. Children and adults alike will enjoy this easy activity to understand the ever changing moon cycle.

<https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/moon-phases-activity-for-kids/>



La canción del cambio: Himno para niños (Change Sings: A Children's Anthem)

by Amanda Gorman,
illustrated by Loren
Long, translated by
Jasminne Mendez
(Viking, 2021).

Activity 1

Create an acrostic poem

An acrostic poem is a poem where certain letters in each line spell out a word or a phrase. This type of poetry encourages word association. The word you select becomes the “spine” word. Each letter is the beginning of a new word or phrase. Depending on the word selected, invite the child to think about words or phrases that start with each letter and that are related to the topic. You can use the kid’s name, his/her favorite animal, season, fruit, place, etc. Example of an acrostic poem: A favorite place: The beach.

Best place to spend my summer!

Each day is full of fun!

Across the pier, I see boats.

Coconuts come from palms

Hurray for the beach!

Activity 2

Read a novel in verse to older kids

At first, novels in verse might sound “boring” or “difficult” for kids not into poetry; however, novels in verse are quick to read and provide readers with the opportunity to get immersed into the character. They also deal with complex issues, are inspiring, and might invoke emotional responses from the readers. Novels in verse are also great read-alouds, providing the opportunity to take turns at reading!

Here are some examples of novels in verse available in Spanish and English for children up ages 12:

La Tierra de las grullas/ The Land of the Cranes by Aida Salazar

Niña Morena Sueña/Brown Girl Dreaming by Jaqueline Woodson

They call me güero: A Border’s kids poems/Me Dicen

Guero: Poemas de un chavo de la frontera

Forest World/La Selva by Margarita Engle.

Rima’s Rebellion: Courage in a Time of Tyranny/La

Rebelión de Rima Marín: El Valor en tiempos de tiranía.

Starfish/Estrella de Mar by Lisa Fipps



El carnaval de mi bisabuela (Bisa's Carnival)

by Joana Pastro,
illustrated by Carolina
Coroa, translated by
Abel Berriz
(Scholastic, Inc.,
2022).

Activity 1

Costumes

Make a costume using fabric, buttons, and sequins. If you're not comfortable sewing, find an old costume to wear. In the story, children wear animal costumes, brightly colored skirts, boas, feathers, and masks. Have fun with your costume! And remember to include a little parasol, just like Clara.

Activity 2

Music and dance

Search for frevo dance music, which originates in the northeastern part of Brazil, where Clara's story takes place, and try some frevo moves of your own. Watch this video for dance inspiration: <https://youtu.be/Bk-ZyOsYx5g>

Activity 3

Parade

Find a whistle, put on your costume, and dance around the room to frevo music!



¡Corre, Pequeño Chaski! Una aventura en el camino Inka (Run, Little Chaski! An Inka trail adventure)

by Mariana Llanos,
illustrated by Mariana
Ruiz Johnson
(Barefoot Books,
2021).

Activity 1

Create a Quipu

Let us make a quipu! The quipu is a tool that can support the study of basic mathematics, specifically learning the decimal system. This tool consists of a main string and secondary strings of different colors. The numbers are represented with knots in the secondary ropes. The knots closest to the main rope represent the thousands, those that follow downwards, the hundreds, then the tens and finally the units. To practice, the children can represent their date of birth on one string and on other strings the birthday of their family members on the quipu:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRyli2SfHys>

Activity 2

Let's play chaskis!

1. Make teams with 4 or 5 chaskis or more. A person who can be a student or a teacher can be the Inca king or queen and will be at the end of the line
2. Each team creates a message that must be delivered to the Inca king or queen orally.
3. Set up the chaski system. Determine how far away the chaskis will have their relay (call them 'tambos' which means "lodge")
4. The race begins! The chaskis of each team will run to their tambo where the next chaski will take the message and run to the next position. The first chaski to reach the Inca with the message intact wins the race.



Cultivando a un artista: la historia de un jardinero paisajista y su hijo (Growing an artist: the story of a landscaper and his son)

by John Parra,
translated by Adriana Domínguez (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2022).

Activity 1

Sketches from Nature

Take the children on a nature walk and ask them to bring pencil and paper. Invite them to make sketches of everything that catches their attention: a flower, an insect, a group of plants, a tree, etc. Make a display of the drawings on a wall.

Activity 2

Design a Garden

Invite a landscape designer to the class for the children to ask questions. Then encourage the class to make their own design plan for a garden at school or at home on paper. Show them sample designs so they can be inspired to create their own beautiful garden.



La dama de los tiburones (The Shark Lady)

by Jess Keating,
illustrated by Marta
Álvarez Miguéns,
translated by Isabel C.
Mendoza, (Vista
Higher Learning Inc.,
2021).

Activity 1

Favorite shark fact

Watch the video Shark Dive | What Sam Sees about sharks and draw a picture of your favorite shark fact.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cr8xuQjCzLk>

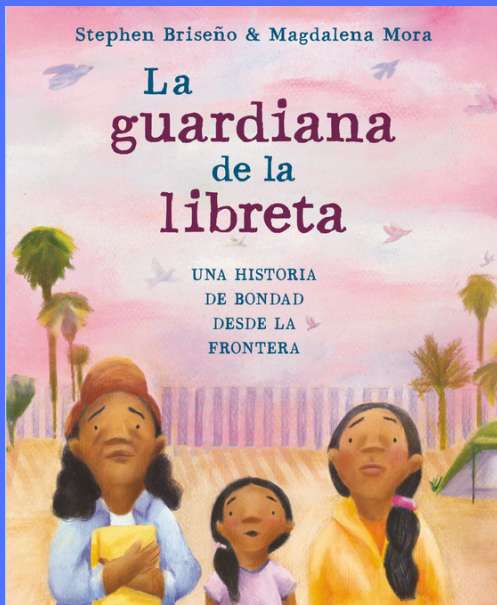
Activity 2

Paper shark

Follow this link for a guide to make a paper shark: [How To Make Easy Paper SHARK For Kids / Nursery Craft Ideas / Paper Craft Easy / KIDS crafts](#)

Materials:

- Blue piece of paper
- White piece of paper
- Scissors
- Black marker



La guardiana de la libreta: una historia de bondad desde la frontera (The Notebook Keeper)

by Stephen Briseño and Magdalena Mora, translated by Juan Vicario (Random House Studio, 2022).

Activity 1

Kindness Notebook

A notebook plays an important role in this story. Notebooks can be used in many ways – to journal about your day, to make checklists, to draw things that you see in nature, or to write favorite words, sayings, or phrases. Watch this video for inspiration on making your own notebook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brHofEENls8>.

Activity 2

Acts of Kindness

In your notebook, make a list of people that you would like to show kindness to. Write down one thing you can do to show kindness to each person on your list. Pick one of the people on your list and make it your goal to carry out that act of kindness to that person this week.



Latinitas: Una celebración de 40 soñadoras audaces (Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers)

by Juliet Menéndez,
translated by Isabel C.
Mendoza (Henry Holt
and Company, 2022).

Activity 1

Choose a Dreamer to Investigate

From young readers to teachers to parents, discover and learn more about each of the magnificent Latinas featured in this book. This MacKids guide provides a variety of discussion questions and extension activities for each female leader featured in the book as well as discussion questions that can be used when reading across Latinitas.

<http://www.mackidsschoolandlibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Latinitas-Teachers-Guide-English.pdf>

Activity 2

Create your own autobiographical story

Young readers can explore their personal life stories and create their own autobiographical account of their lives. Readers can interview family members or community members to gather some fun facts to share about themselves.

<https://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/telling-story-about-young>

EL MURCIÉLAGO

Elise Gravel



El murciélago (The Bat)

by Elise Gravel,
translated by
Salvador Figueirido
(NubeOcho, 2022).

Activity 1

Cook thanks to the bats!

Do you enjoy strawberries, avocados and almonds? Did you know that you can do it thanks to bats! Bats help us in many ways, such as: protecting the crops, pollinating plants, and distributing seeds around the world. With the use of this guide you will learn to cook with your family different drinks and/or dishes with delicious food that is possible thanks to our friends, the bats. ¡Libro de recetas, gracias a los murciélagos/Cook Book, thank you bats!

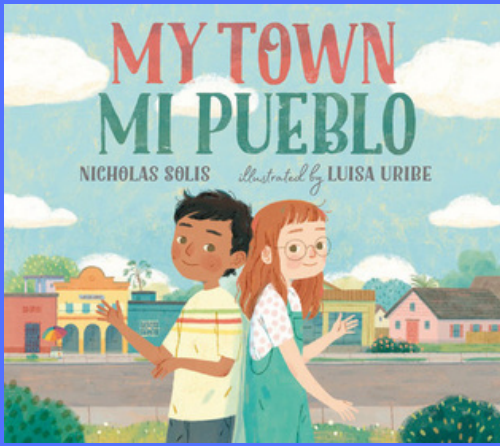
Activity 2

Draw a bat!

Do you want to learn to draw our friends, the bats? Don't miss this activity in which you will be able to draw them and learn characteristics about several species of bats from the experts, the Bat Conservation International.

[Coloring.pages](http://coloringpages.com)

<http://elisegravel.com/en/>



My Town Mi Pueblo

by Nicholas Solis,
illustrated by Luisa
Uribe (Nancy Paulsen
Books, 2022).

Activity 1

Compare & Contrast

After reading the book together, ask children to think about what they know about the town on the Mexican side of the border and what they know about the town on the U.S. side of the border. How are the experiences of the two cousins similar? How are they different? Write their responses in the Venn Diagram.

<https://www.nicholassolis.com/my-town-mi-pueblo>

Activity 2

Making Connections Through Computer Science

Read the Direction Cards for instructions on how to code on the Let's Code-Unplugged! Card and have fun!

Copies of the .pdf files including directions cards and the let's code-unplugged card are found in Stephanie Fitzpatrick's guide.



El nuevo hogar de Tía Fortuna: Una historia judía-cubana (Tia Fortuna's New Home)

by Ruth Behar,
illustrated by Devon
Halzworth, translated
by Yanitizia Canetti
(Knopf Books, 2022).

Activity 1

Suitcase of Memories

Tía Fortuna only had one suitcase filled with belongings because she didn't need much when she had so many memories. What would you pack if you only had one suitcase? Draw or write about the objects you've chosen and why you would want to take it with you.

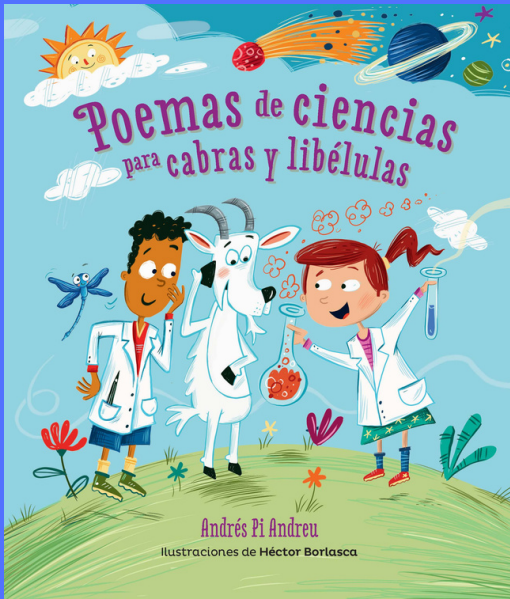
<https://www.ruthbehar.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Tia-Fortuna-Educator-Guide.pdf>

Activity 2

Your Own Key

When Tía Fortuna had to leave her home in Cuba, she took the key to her house, even though she wouldn't be returning. And when she had to leave her home in Miami, she took the key to her apartment at the Seaway, again knowing she wouldn't be returning. The key had a deep meaning for Tía Fortuna, since according to legend her ancestors took their keys when they had to leave their homes. What does the key mean to you? Design a special key that can open a door to a place that is special to you.

<https://www.ruthbehar.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Tia-Fortuna-Educator-Guide.pdf>



Poemas de ciencia para cabras y libélulas

by Andrés Pi Andreu,
illustrated by Héctor
Borlasca (Santillana
USA, 2022).

Activity 1

Poetry Creation

Science is intriguing, exciting, and fun. In this poem book you will learn about science through poetry! What about to re-write a poem in your own words? You can use synonyms or antonyms to make it more interesting. The goal is to say the same but with your own words.

Let's go!

Poetry Help -

<http://www.joglab.com/wordfinder.htm>

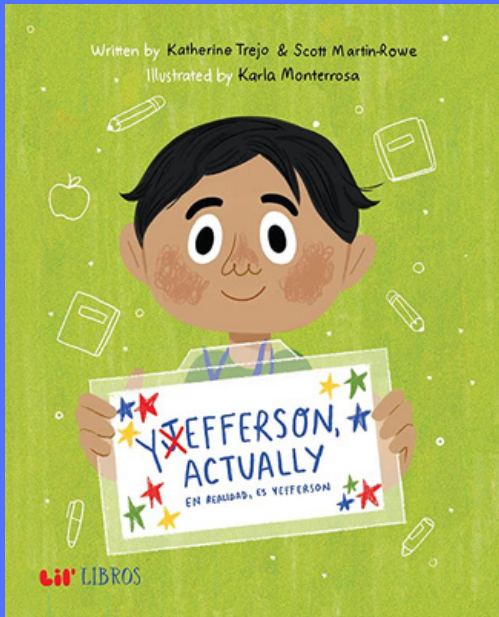
Activity 2

Act or Dance with Words

Is your time to use your creativity and shine! The task is to create a dance or play in which you describe the poem while you are dancing or acting. Your audience will guess what the poem is about. Ready?

Word Games -

<https://www.wordgametime.com/>



En realidad, es Yefferson (Yefferson Actually)

by Katherine Trejo and
Scott Martine-Rowe,
illustrated by Karla
Monterrosa (Lil'
Libros, 2021).

Activity 1

The Story of My Name

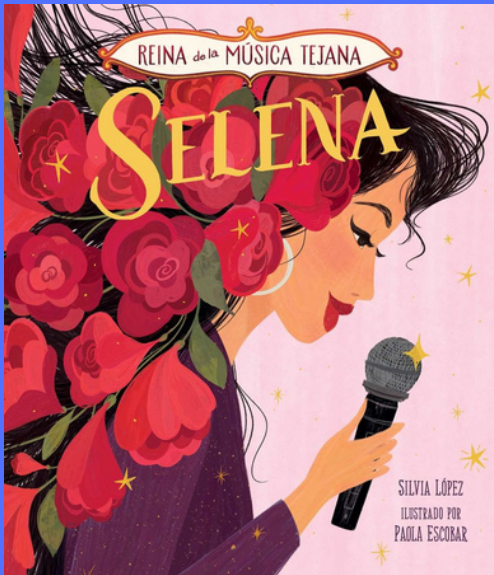
In an effort to help build community by having students share a name that has particular significance for them and to give a sense of the variety of cultures, identities, and histories that students bring with them to the classroom you can have students provide a brief background or explanation about their name including how to properly pronounce it. Some possible prompts to ask can include:

- Who are you named after and why?
- Where does your name come from?
- Who decided or picked your name?
- Does your name spelling have a special significance?
- What special memories do you have associated with your name?

Activity 2

Comic Show and Tell

Yefferson, Actually includes a nod to comic books and graphic novels in its narrative structure and you can have students introduce themselves to the class by creating a comic strip to share interesting facts about themselves: their favorite subject, favorite after-school activity, and their family. An alternative activity could be a problem-solution narrative where students explore how to correctly demonstrate classroom behaviors or deal with difficult scenarios that may arise throughout the first few days of school.



Reina de la música tejana: Selena (Queen of Tejano Music: Selena)

by Silvia López,
illustrated by Paola
Escobar, translated by
Nuria Mendoza (Little
Bee Books, 2020).

Activity 1

Word Search

Complete the word search on the last page of this activity guide from Little Bee Books. Talk about the importance of each of the words in the life of Selena.

https://littlebeebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce_uploads/2020/10/SPANISH-Selena-Lesson-Plan.pdf

Activity 2

Listen to the music of Selena

This video is one of Selena's most popular songs sung for the very last time at her last concert in the Houston Astrodome. Como la flor is still considered one of the best Latin Pop songs of all time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwZTgDjRLMO>



Serpiente Emplumada y los cinco soles: un mito mesoamericano (Feathered Serpent and the Five Suns: a Mesoamerican Creation Myth)

by Duncan Tonatiuh,
(Vista Higher Learning, 2022).

Activity 1

Your Impression of Quetzacoatl

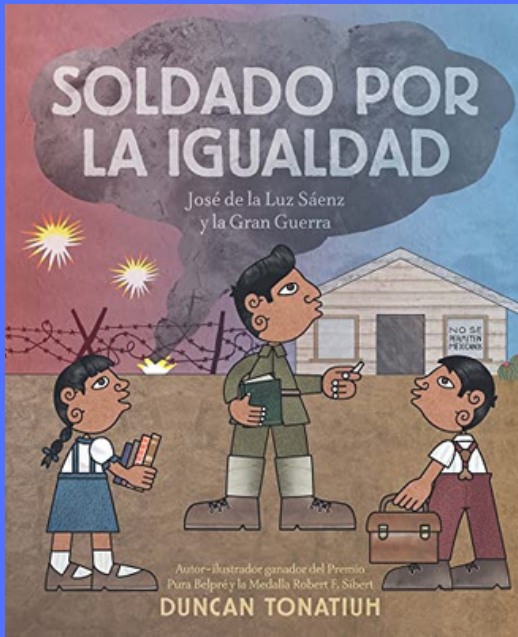
Draw, write or talk about the five suns of Quetzalcoatl to create humankind. Did Quetzalcoatl mean for all humankind to look and act alike?

Activity 2

Coloring sheet

Using multi-media art supplies color, the two-headed serpent and Quetzalcoatl or draw your own version of him as described in the book. "... Gathering his staff, shield, cloak, and shell ornament..."

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSSLzJR-x8_4J5xEyVZYJ-juBX1cYqDjNA9TdrVL_8bl6UsVUSjDJHhLCKKpgKEWnRwg-liXop4Ae2P/pub



Soldado por la igualdad: José de la Luz Sáenz y la Gran Guerra (Soldier For Equality: José De La Luz Saenz And The Great War)

by Duncan Tonatiuh,
(Vista Higher Learning,
2022).

Activity 1

Despite Our Differences

This story highlights the importance of accepting others no matter how different or similar communities and cultures might be. Use the worksheet to guide the discussion with children about what equality means. Discuss and ask children to write down what is the same and different in others from themselves.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ4KuS1_okJ7tFe0vKrsqTInF5aKDHKnOkdAxYvijVfd62AXwmEXx8XDT4U-2DMYMCAilb9y9Vr4Eu6/pub)

[1vQ4KuS1_okJ7tFe0vKrsqTInF5aKDHKnOkdAxYvijVfd62AXwmEXx8XDT4U-2DMYMCAilb9y9Vr4Eu6/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ4KuS1_okJ7tFe0vKrsqTInF5aKDHKnOkdAxYvijVfd62AXwmEXx8XDT4U-2DMYMCAilb9y9Vr4Eu6/pub)

Activity 2

Tell your story

“When I was growing up, we didn’t have....” This is a fun one for grandparents to fill in with the grandkids.

Activity 3

Compare Game

Play the mirror game and let the children compare their faces with their friends. What makes us the same and what makes us different? Do some children wear glasses? Why do we not all have the same hair color? Why does the color of our skin differ?



Srta. Quinces (Miss Quinces)

by Kat Fajardo,
translated by María
Domínguez & Abel
Berriz (Graphix, 2022).

Activity 1

Reading Guide

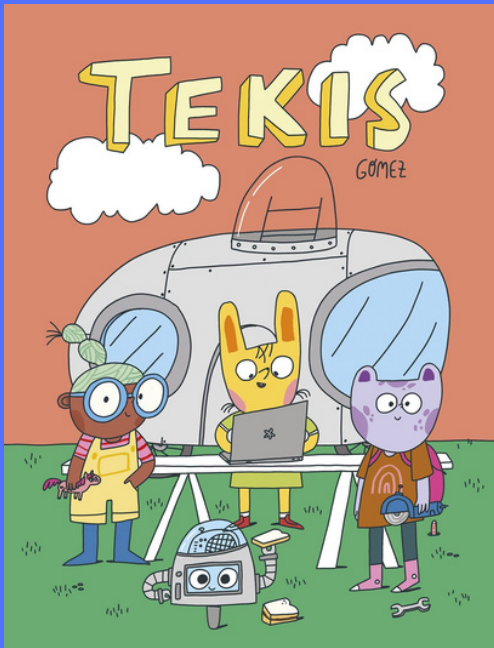
Use this Reading Guide with discussion questions, writing prompts, literary connections, and other extension activities to learn more with Miss Quinces. You can even create your own comic using the template on page 6!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cPSor1Uuw-4iiseE3dgj2ebfKMuZeCIB/view>

Activity 2

Travel brochure

Research more about Honduras and write a travel brochure advertising why people should visit the country. Make sure to include pictures, information about the country, and must do activities. Don't forget to cite your sources!



Tekis

by Gómez (Nube Ocho, 2021).

Activity 1

Make a Rocketship

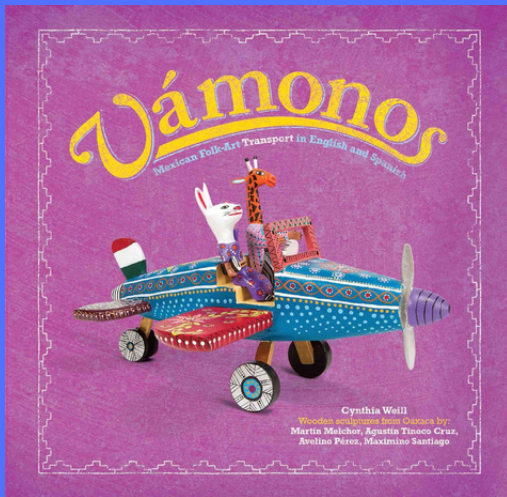
Kat, Oli, and Ada travel in a rocketship to Mars to be able to save their friend Purpurina. Make this play rocket out of recyclable materials and decorate it to one's liking. Participants can hang it around their room or use it for a space themed party.

<https://www.guiainfantil.com/articulos/ocio/manualidades/cohete-de-carton-manualidad-infantil-de-reciclaje/>

Activity 2

Imagination Journey

Tell participants that you want to take them on a journey through a made-up world. Ask them to get comfortable, close their eyes and relax. Describe a beautiful outdoor scene including sensory information (ie, it smells like roses, you feel the warmth of the sun, you hear a robin singing, etc). In this world, participants find the most incredible tree. Start asking questions (ie, what does the tree look like? Can you climb it? Is there someone or something already at the top?). Who knows what creatures might show up, or what might happen! When the journey is over, paint or draw different aspects of this imaginary world along with participants.



Vámonos: Mexican Folk Art Transport in English and Spanish

by Cynthia Weill,
wooden sculptures
from Oaxaca by
Martín Melchor,
Agustín Tinoco Cruz,
Avelino Pérez, and
Maximino Santiago
(Cinco Puntos Press,
2022).

Activity 1

Make your own mode of transportation

In Vámonos: Mexican Folk Art Transport in English and Spanish you can see different animals going to the library using different modes of transportation. Make your own mode of transportation using cardboard, construction paper, paper rolls, and other materials you can find at home.

Activity 2

Make an animal mask

The photographs show you wooden folk-art pieces handcrafted by Oaxacan artisans. Make an animal mask and decorate it using the same style you see in the book. The following link has instructions you can follow to make your mask: <https://www.internationalfolkart.org/assets/files/learn/Folk%20Art%20For%20You/DIY%20Animal%20Masks.pdf>



Un verano especial con la abuela (Something About Grandma)

by Tania de Regil
(Candlewick Press,
2022).

Activity 1

Coloring Pages

You can find activities to do at home after reading this book. The list of activities includes: a card, a maze, and love coupons to gift to your loved ones.

Card / Maze / Cupons

https://www.candlewick.com/book_files/1536222569.kit.1.pdf

Activity 2

Write a letter to a loved one

Write a letter to a loved one who lives out of town. In the letter, write about your favorite memory with them. Ask a grown-up for help getting a stamp and take your letter to the post office.