

ENRICHMENT GUIDE & SOCIAL STORY

# CARMELA

FULL OF WISHES



SPONSORED BY



## DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

It's Carmela's birthday, and her wish has already come true - she's finally old enough to join her big brother as he does the family errands! As they travel through the neighborhood, Carmela finds a lone dandelion growing in the pavement. Before she can blow its puffy white fluff away, her brother tells her she has to make a wish. If only she can think of just the right wish to make. Delight in this moving ode to family, to dreamers, and to finding hope in the most unexpected places.

Enjoy the show,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Coltyn Giltner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Coltyn Giltner  
Education Director  
(414) 267-2972  
cgiltner@firststage.org

# SYNOPSIS

Portions of text that appear in **bold and that are underlined** may be considered loud for some audience members.

Carmela wakes up on her 7th birthday to surprise pancakes with her Mami and brother Miguel, who gives her a bracelet as a present. Carmela is excited because now that she is seven, she is allowed to go with her brother to la lavandería (the laundromat). Carmela and her brother leave the house and head towards la lavandería, while Carmela stops to talk with a boy selling flowers, an old woman with a cane and others along the way. Miguel tries to hurry Carmela along, but Carmela has a dandelion she wants to blow the seeds out of for her birthday wish. Carmela can't decide what she wants to wish for though, and she steps inside.

In the laundromat, Miguel becomes frustrated with her. Carmela almost makes a wish to have her brother be nicer to her- but decides that she should imagine the dream coming true first. She imagines her brother being as kind and loving as possible. Miguel finishes the laundry and they leave together- but Carmela does not make her wish.

Next, the two siblings head towards the vegetable market. Carmela gets distracted by a Paletas (popsicles) cart selling sweets along the way. At the vegetable market, Miguel seems like they are in a rush and Carmela imagines a vending machine filled with sweets. She still decides to save her wish. As the two head to the locksmith to pick up a key,

Carmela asks Miguel questions about their Papi and why is not around like he used to be. Miguel reveals that their Papi needs to "get their papers fixed": her father was born in a different country and was sent back to it, but he is trying to return to them.

**At the locksmith, Carmela begins to imagine a new wish: a fancy, comfy bed for her Mami. Miguel gets the key and they make their way next to a bodega, a small corner store. There, Carmela begins to miss her Papi, and smelling a stick of deodorant that reminds her of him, begins to imagine he is there – they sing a song together. The bodega owner's cat, Anatoli, distracts Carmela from her vision and Papi disappears from her imagination. The two siblings leave the bodega.**

**Miguel reveals that he has been hurrying through his stops with Carmela so that he can borrow a video game from his friend Hugo's house. Carmela is upset that her brother lied to her. As they leave, Miguel rushes her again and she crashes her scooter on accident and her dandelion stem breaks. Feeling bad, Miguel takes Carmela to a spot filled with dandelion seeds floating all around where their Papi used to take them and gives her a mango lollipop as a gift. Carmela takes in the sights and sounds of the dandelions. The two siblings go home.**

*This play is bilingual. The actors will be speaking English and Spanish during the performance.*



# SPANISH GLOSSARY



**“Las Mañanitas”** – This is the song that Mami and Big Brother sing to Carmela at the start of the play. It is a traditional Mexican birthday song.

**Feliz cumpleaños** – “Happy Birthday”

**Ya!** – “Enough!”

**Mi amor** – “my love”

**Flores de cempazuchitl** – “marigold flower”

**Fuchi** – “Yuck”

**Yo también** – “Me too”

**¡Qué bueno!** – “Good!” or “That’s great!”

**Papas con huevo** – “Potatoes with eggs”

**¡Que tenga un buen día!** – “Have a nice day!”

**La lavandería** – “the laundromat”

¿Qué quieres? – “What do you want?”

**Ahorita** – “Now!”

**ahoritaTe quiero mucho mucho mucho** – “I love you a lot a lot a lot!”

¿Me oíste? – “You hear me?”

**Mi vida** – “My life”

**Elotera** and **Elote** – “Corn seller” and “Corn”

**Rosas** – “Roses”

**Flores** – “Flowers”

**Lotería** – “bingo”

**Cantor** – “bingo caller”

**Vámonos** “Let’s go!”

**Paleta** – “Popsicle”

**Nieve** – “Ice Cream”

**Piña para la niña** – “Pineapple for the girl”

**Tamarindo** – “Tamarind”. It’s a kind of fruit that looks like a bean pod. The fruit tastes sweet and sour

**Por supuesto** – “Of course”

¿**Algo más?** – “Anything else?”

**Espera** – “Wait”

**Buenos días** and **Buenas noches** – “Good morning” and “Good night”

**Que tengas dulces sueños** – “Sweet dreams”

**Cajeta** – “Caramel”

**Hija de miel** – “My sweet daughter”

**Hacía mucho frío** – “It was very cold”

**Qué bonita** – “How pretty”



**“Carmen Carmela”** – This is the song that Papi sings to Carmela. It is an old Mexican folk tune

**Sana Sana** – A shortened way of saying a rhyme that parents say to kids when they get small bumps and scrapes. The whole saying is “Sana sana, colita de rana. Si no sanas hoy, sanarás mañana” and it means “Heal, heal, little tail of the frog. If you don’t heal today, you’ll heal tomorrow.”

# RUSSIAN GLOSSARY

**Zdrastye** (z-DRAHST-yeh) - “Hello”

# A DANDELION WISH

## ART & WRITING ACTIVITY

While following her Big Brother as he completes his errands, Carmela talks with her dandelion to figure out the best wish she can make with it. Her wishes help her to understand her family and how she can support her family – like wishing for an extra comfortable bed for Mami. Her wishes also help her to process the big emotions she’s feeling and to dream of everything that would make her life even better.

People-kids and adults alike – have been making wishes on dandelions for generations. Using the directions below and the dandelion graphic, you can make your own dandelion wish just like Carmela!

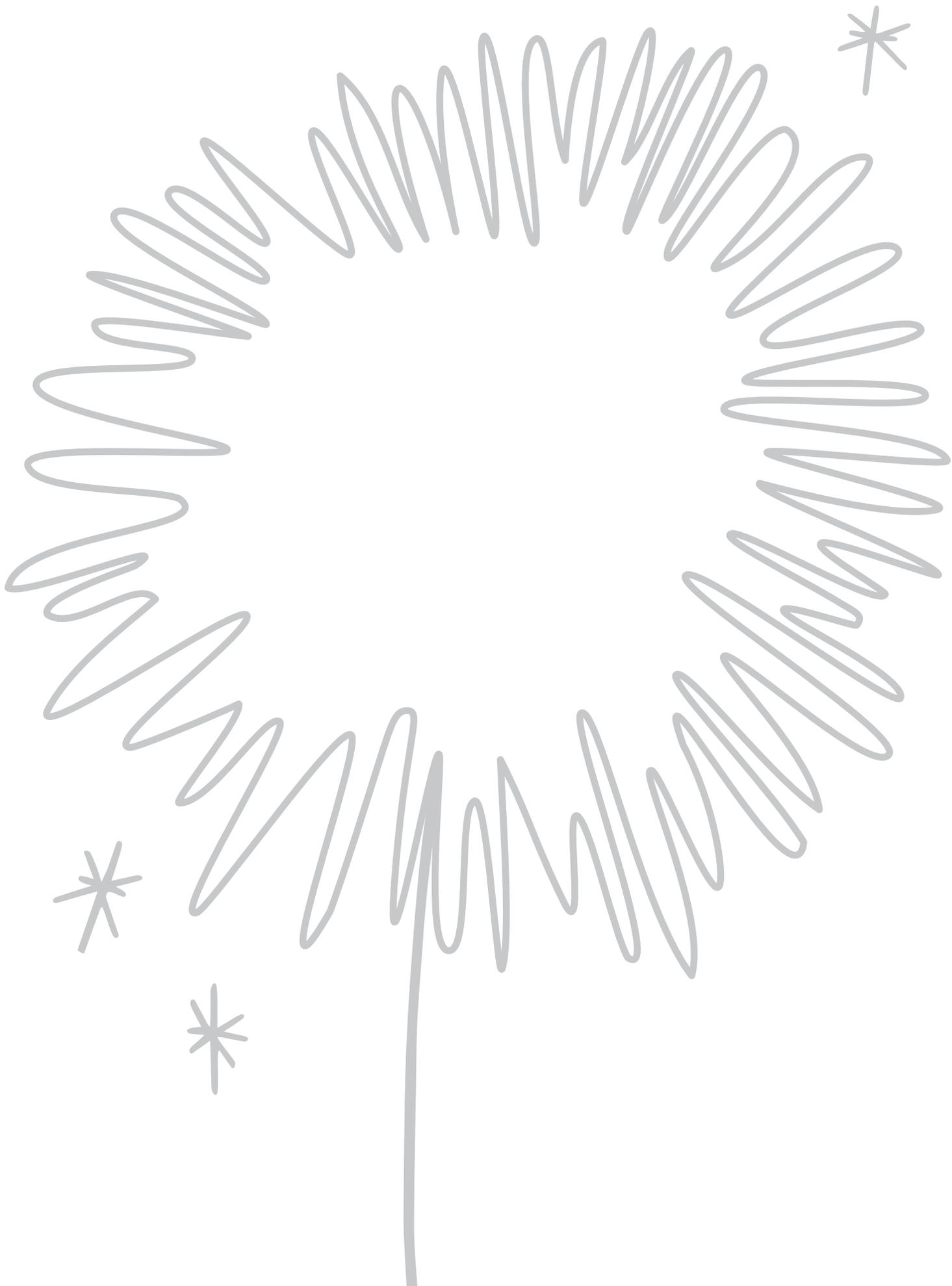
### MATERIALS

- Dandelion Handout
- Pencil
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, or Markers
- Scissors

### DIRECTIONS

1. Let’s brainstorm what we would want to wish for! Using the provided lined paper, write down your answer to the question: If I could wish for *anything in the world*, what would I wish for? This can be a list of different wishes or an explanation of one really big wish!
2. If you chose to write a list of different wishes, choose 1 or 2 wishes from your list.
3. On the Dandelion Handout, draw a picture of what your wish looks like. For example, if your wish is a new puppy, you could draw a picture of you playing fetch or getting big kisses from your puppy.
4. Once your drawing is complete, feel free to share your drawing with your friends, family, or classmates!





# CARMELA'S BRACELETS

## ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY

For Carmela's birthday, her whole family gives her a bunch of bracelets that jingle when she shakes them. Carmela loves her gift so much, but she decides to give one of her bracelets to a friend of hers that she hasn't seen in a long while. This made Carmela feel even more happy sharing her gift with her friend.

Giving gifts is a great way of showing our friends and family that we love them and care for them. Let's make bracelets we can share with people we love—just like Carmela did!

### MATERIALS

- A paper with two-different colors on either side
  - \* *You can make your own two-colored paper by either coloring a blank piece of paper OR by taping two different pieces of paper together. There are directions on how to do this included.*
- Crayons (optional)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Tape

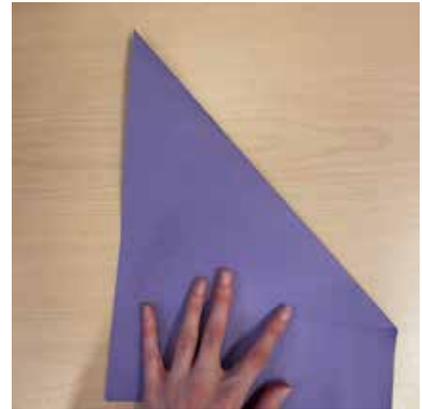
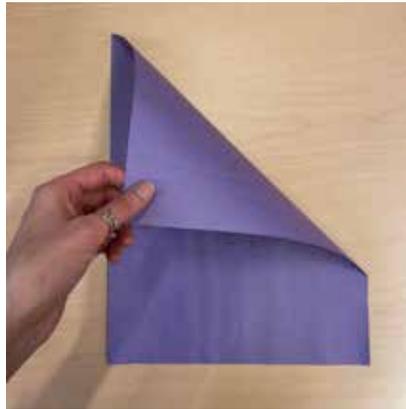
### DIRECTIONS



1. Gather your materials. For a thinner bracelet, use one sheet of paper that has different colors on either side or a blank sheet that you can color yourself!

# CARMELA'S BRACELETS

## ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



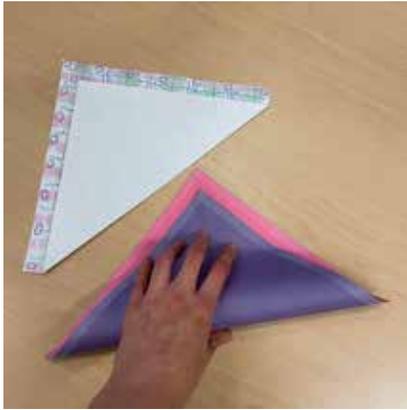
2. If your papers aren't perfect squares, turn them into perfect squares. Take one corner and fold it towards one of the long edge of the paper. Try to line the short edge up perfectly with the long edge to make your square as perfect as possible.



3. With a pencil or a crayon, trace where the folded-over portion overlaps the bottom portion of the paper. Then, cut the paper along this line to create your perfect square. Repeat this for all of the papers.
4. Prepare your two-colored paper by either taping two squares that are different colors back to back OR taking your blank paper and coloring one of the sides to be completely different from the other. This will help create a fun pattern for your birthday bracelet!

# CARMELA'S BRACELETS

## ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



5. Fold your square in half to create a triangle. Make sure to leave a half an inch to a full inch of the second color visible around the edge of the first color.



6. Flip your triangle over so that you only see one color. Along the bottom edge, roll up about an inch of paper and crease it flat.



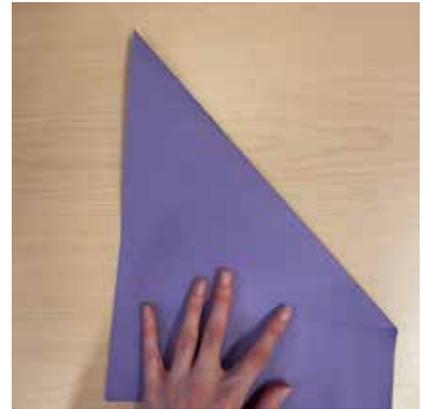
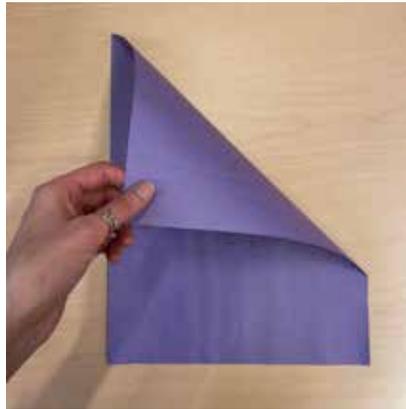
7. Continue to roll up the bottom edge of your triangle until all you have is a striped strip of paper.



8. Tape down the remaining flaps of your bracelet to secure the shape of the strip of paper.

# CARMELA'S BRACELETS

## ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



9. Create the bracelet shape. Wrap the strip of paper around your arm or a bottle of water. Tuck one side of the bracelet into the other side of the bracelet and secure it in place with tape.



10. And done – the bracelet is ready! Feel free to repeat these steps as many times as you need to make bracelets for everyone you want to give one to!

# MAKING DECORATIONS: PAPEL PICADO

## A MULTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY

Many of the design elements—like the costumes and the set—are inspired by the traditional Mexican folk art papel picado. Papel picado, in Spanish, literally translates to punched paper and they are used as decorations for holidays and family celebrations all across Latin America. The designs on the papel picado are created by using the negative space made by the holes punched or cut into the paper and, traditionally, it is made out of thin paper, similar to tissue paper, that is easy to rip. This makes each papel picado special and unique to each holiday they're made for.

Let's make some papel picados to decorate your home or classroom!

### MATERIALS

- At least 5-6 pieces of colorful paper
  - \* Or make this an activity that the whole family or class can enjoy and have one piece of paper per person!
- String
- Scissors
- Glue Bottle or Glue Stick



Use the directions below or watch this [how-to video!](#)

### DIRECTIONS



1. Gather your materials. Start by taking your sheet of paper and placing it so that the long edge is on the top and bottom.

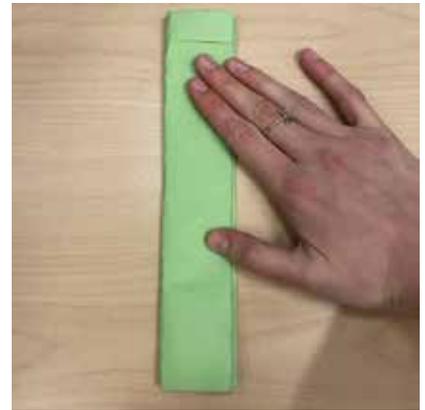
# MAKING DECORATIONS: PAPEL PICADO

## A MULTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



2. Fold over the top edge of your paper about one inch and crease it flat. This will be your string fold. Flip your paper over so that the string fold is facing down.

3. Fold your paper in half hamburger style by bringing the left edge over to the right edge.



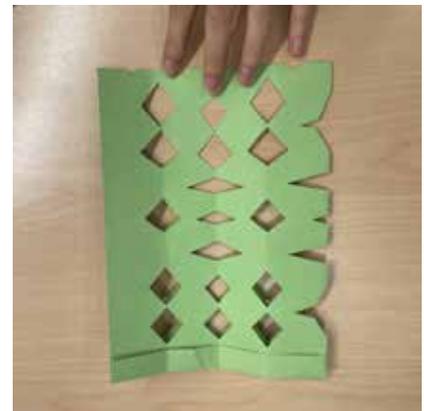
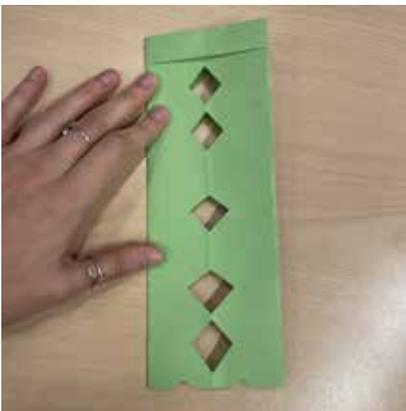
4. Fold your paper in half two more times by bringing the left edge to the right edge.

# MAKING DECORATIONS: PAPEL PICADO

## A MULTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



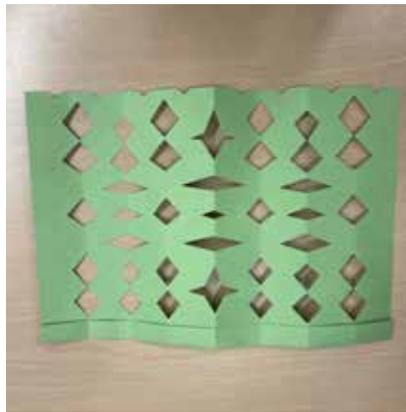
5. Find the creased edge. This is the side that cannot be opened up. Cut out small shapes along the creased edge of the paper and the small bottom edge. Be sure *NOT* to cut out any shapes on the string fold!



6. Once you're happy with the shapes you cut out, unfold your paper one time and cut along the new creased edge. Then, repeat this one more time!

# MAKING DECORATIONS: PAPEL PICADO

## A MULTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



7. Unfold your papel picado to reveal your beautiful cut out pattern!



8. Repeat this process until you have enough papel picado to hang across a window, doorway, wall, or enough to string around an entire room! Place your papel picado onto a flat surface with the string fold facing up in the order you'd like them to hang. Measure out as much string as you'll need to string all of your papel picado – we recommend a foot per each papel picado plus an extra 4 feet.

# MAKING DECORATIONS: PAPEL PICADO

## A MULTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITY



9. Place about 1 foot of string to the empty space next to your first papel picado.



10. Open your string fold and run your glue stick down the length of the string fold. Then, place your string onto the glue and close the string fold. Hold the string fold down tightly for at least 1 minute to make sure the glue dries and the string is secure!



11. Repeat step 12 until all of your papel picado are attached to the string. We recommend having about 2-3 inches between each papel picado.



12. Finally, hang and enjoy your papel picado!

# POST-SHOW QUESTIONS



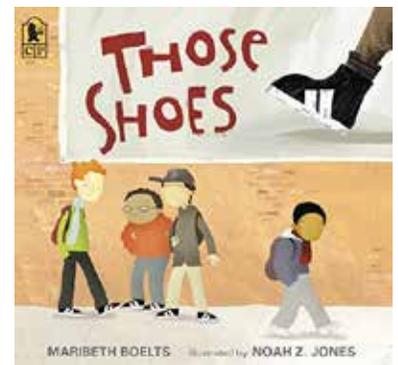
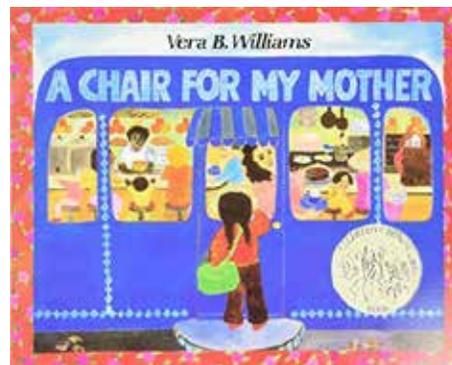
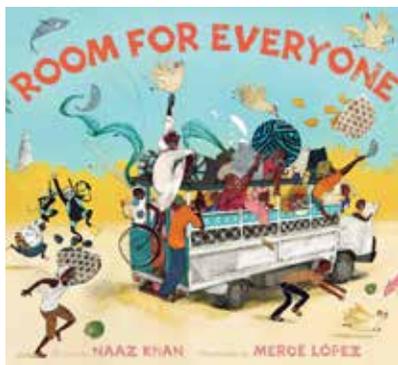
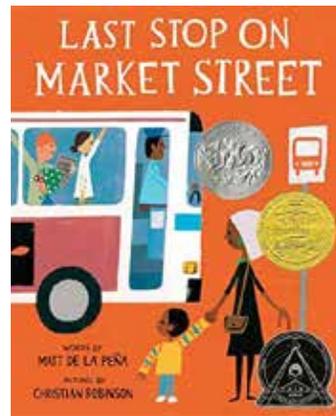
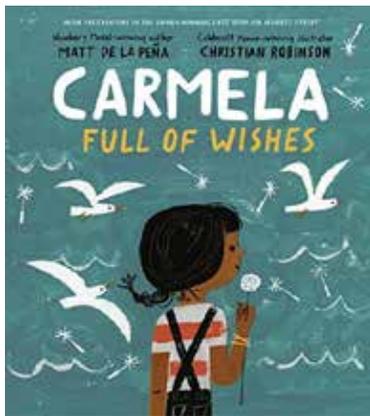
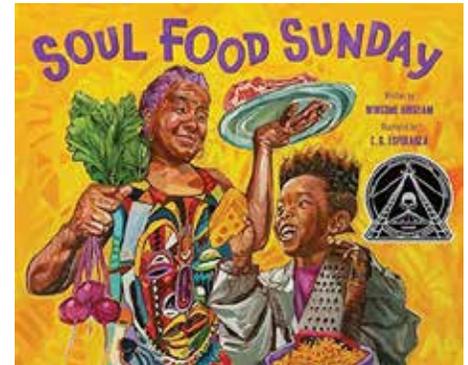
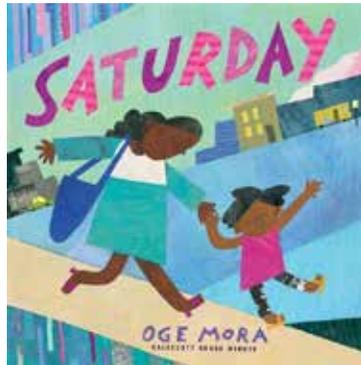
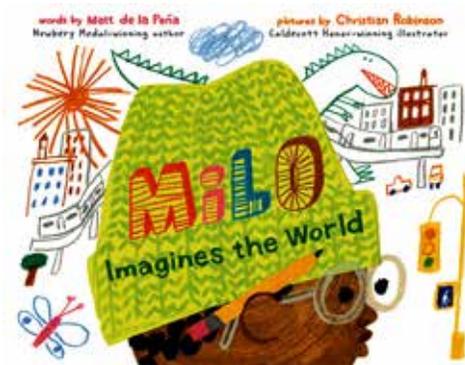
1. Carmela wishes to spend time with her Big Brother at la lavandería—the laundromat. Do you have a family member or friend you wish to spend more time with? Where would you wish to go to spend time with them? What would you do?
  
2. Throughout the story, Big Brother does and says things that remind Carmela of their Papi. Do any of your family members or friends do things that remind you of other people you know? What do they do? Who does it remind you of?
  
3. Carmela misses her Papi a lot because she doesn't get to see or talk with him very often because he lives outside the country. Is there someone in your life that you miss a lot? Is there something that you do to help stay connected to them—like talk on the phone or do things that they like?

# WHO SAID IT?

---

1. "All my life I wished for a little sister. Someone I could talk to. Share candy with. Hold their hand. And you have one and look how you treat her."
2. "He love love loves potatoes with eggs. It's the only thing he eats for breakfast."
3. "Not all wishes come true."
4. "I still remember when you were born. Hacía mucho frío. I thought I was going to turn into a paleta."
5. "I don't say those last words. I just give him a look that says it for me."
6. "I won't even play video games anymore just so I can be ready to play anything you want."
7. "I don't know what that is but that is not a hug"
8. "What if I made a wish to turn him into a gigantic wheelbarrow full of stinky manure?"

# RECOMMENDED READING





# GOING TO A SHOW AT THE TODD WEHR THEATER

SOCIAL STORY

In partnership with



# I am going to see a First Stage show at the Todd Wehr Theater.



I am going to see the show with

---

---

---

---

**Watching a play is like watching TV or a movie,  
except people are on stage in front of us.**



They are called actors. They can see and hear me too.  
I can't turn the channel or turn the volume up and down.

# A play is made up of many interesting things.



Costumes



Scenery



Sound



Lighting

When we arrive at the theater, we will probably have to climb some stairs. There are stairs outside the building, and inside the building.



We may need to wait in line to scan our tickets.



When we are waiting, I can stay with my family or teacher.

# An usher will help us find our seats.

We will enter the theater and find our seats.



There are bathrooms in the lobby. If I need to, I can use the bathroom before we go to our seats.

Someone will show us where to sit.



The audience area is for all of us.



The stage is for the actors only.

## When I am in the theater waiting for the show to start:

1. I can talk to my family or friends.
2. I can take a short break in the lobby.



# There will be a lot of people in theater and it may get noisy.

If it gets too loud:

1. I can bring headphones if I want.
2. I can put my hands over my ears.
3. I can leave the room and take a short break in the lobby.



I can come back when I am ready.

## During the show:

1. I can watch and listen to the actors quietly.
2. I can applaud if I like something.
3. I can hold things in my hand that make me feel comfortable.



## If I need to talk:

1. I can talk quietly to my family.
2. I can write down what I want to say.
3. I can leave the room.

# After the show there will be a “talkback.”

**The talkback is a chance for me to ask questions.**

1. I will raise my hand to show that I want to ask a question.
2. I will wait for the leader to call on me to ask my question.
3. I don't have to ask a question if I don't want.



**I can ask different kinds of questions:**

1. I can ask questions about the show.
2. I can ask questions about the scenery, costumes, lights, or sound.

**After the show is finished,  
I will leave the theater with my family.**





## MEET THE "NIEVES" CAST

These are the actors you will see at the  
Sensory Friendly Performance on  
Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 3:30PM.

## THIS IS ISABEL.



They play the role of Carmela. Carmela wants to use her birthday wish on the perfect thing, but can't decide what she wants to wish for. She lives with her Mami and brother, Miguel and loves to ride her scooter around town. She misses her Papi, who is in another country.

# THIS IS THOMAS.



They play the role of Miguel. Carmela is their little sister, and they are the oldest child in their family. Miguel has many chores and responsibilities that he helps his Mami with. He likes to tease his sister, but loves her very much.

# CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

## THIS IS KAREN.



They play the role of Mami. Mami is the mother of Carmela and Big Brother. Karen also plays the roles of Bodega Owner and the Old Woman who Carmela meets during her errands.

CARMELA  
FULL OF  
WISHES

THIS IS PARKER.



They play the role of Papi and Señor Lopez. Papi is Carmela and Miguel's father. Carmela sees Señor Lopez around town while she is on her errands.

# CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

## THIS IS THE ENSEMBLE.



These actors play several people from around Carmela's town who she sees while on her errands with Miguel.



## MEET THE "PALETAS" CAST

CARMELA  
FULL OF  
WISHES

THIS IS ISABEL.



They play the role of Carmela. Carmela wants to use her birthday wish on the perfect thing, but can't decide what she wants to wish for. She lives with her Mami and brother, Miguel and loves to ride her scooter around town. She misses her Papi, who is in another country.

## THIS IS THOMAS.



They play the role of Miguel. Carmela is their little sister, and they are the oldest child in their family. Miguel has many chores and responsibilities that he helps his Mami with. He likes to tease his sister, but loves her very much.

# CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

## THIS IS KAREN.



They play the role of Mami. Mami is the mother of Carmela and Big Brother. Karen also plays the roles of Bodega Owner and the Old Woman who Carmela meets during her errands.

CARMELA  
FULL OF  
WISHES

THIS IS PARKER.



They play the role of Papi and Señor Lopez. Papi is Carmela and Miguel's father. Carmela sees Señor Lopez around town while she is on her errands.

# CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

## THIS IS THE ENSEMBLE.



These actors play several people from around Carmela's town who she sees while on her errands with Miguel.