

The Secret of the Plátano

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Family, Hispanic Heritage

Book Brief: A grandson learns that his grandmother cannot teach him what only her heart knows. Inspired by a dream of their reunion to dance and share secrets about plátanos, the tale highlights their magical bond.

Author:
Luz Maria Mack

Illustrator:
Stephany Mesa



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about the boy and his grandma.

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, listen for all the different sounds in the story."

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Who likes to dance? Do you follow a count or just go with the music?" (Optional: think, pair, share)

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why couldn't the boy hear the music in the beginning of the story?
- Why do you think Abuela made the boy listen to his heart?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Abuela talks about the magic of the plátano leaves. What does she mean by this?

Extending Our Thinking: The boy learns about his heritage from his Abuela. Using [RIF's See, Think, Wonder](#), have students fill out the organizer using the story to explore more about the Dominican Republic.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.