

Beyond the Page: I Love Saturdays y domingos

Subject: Language Arts; Social Studies

Running time: 18 minutes

Objectives

The student will:

- gain a deeper understanding of the book *I Love Saturdays y domingos*, written by Alma Flor Ada and illustrated by Elivia Savadier;
- be motivated to read more books and find out more about the author, illustrator, and subject matter; and
- learn more about older people who have interesting hobbies.

Synopsis of the Book

The girl in the story is lucky. She spends Saturdays with her English-speaking Grandma and Grandpa and Sundays—*los domingos*—with *Abuelito y Abuelita*, who are Mexican American. She plays with their pets, visits the circus and the pier, and hears stories about her grandparents' childhoods. On her birthday, they surprise her with special gifts: a doll from Grandma and Grandpa, a dollhouse from *Abuelito*, and a dress that matches her doll's dress from *Abuelita*. Although her grandparents are different in many ways, they share a great love for their granddaughter.

Synopsis of the Video

At the Beyond the Page Café, Today's Special is *I Love Saturdays y domingos*, written by Alma Flor Ada and illustrated by Elivia Savadier. Host Shelley reads the story aloud to the Café's visitors, and we view an animation of Savadier's exuberant, caring watercolor illustrations. After the reading, kids watch a video about some creative grandparents. Then the children have an online chat with Alma Flor Ada, who talks about her choice of settings for the story.

Preview Questions/Discussions

1. What do the Spanish words *Abuelito* and *Abuelita* mean in English?
2. How can grandparents and grandchildren have fun together?
3. The girl in this story speaks Spanish with one set of grandparents and English with the other set. How might the grandparents be alike and different?

Post-Viewing Questions

1. What was the most interesting story the girl's grandparents told about their childhoods? Why?
2. Think of what the girl in the story likes to do with each set of grandparents. How are the activities similar? How are they different?
3. Why is the girl lucky to have Spanish-speaking and English-speaking grandparents?
4. Why did Alma Flor Ada choose the settings of a circus and a pier?

Related Activities

1. Invite pairs of students to make an illustrated glossary of English–Spanish words based on ones in the story. If possible, Spanish-speaking students can share and define other words to add to the glossaries.
2. Ask students to interview a grandparent or an older family member about his or her favorite activities or childhood stories. Tell them to share what they learned.
3. Call on students to recall the online chat with Alma Flor Ada, the author of *I Love Saturdays y domingos*. Help students generate their own questions for the author. Encourage them to mail their questions and comments to Ada at this address:

Alma Flor Ada
c/o Atheneum Books for Young Readers
Simon & Schuster
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020-1513

Resources

Disney Educational Productions

www.Edustation.Disney.com

Additional information, including books, videos, and Web links.

WKCD—What Kids Can Do—In Their Own Words: Who Am I?

<http://www.whatkidscando.org/intheirownwords/whoamIintro.html>

Poems, essays, and interview excerpts that document the lives of racial or language minority teens.

National Education Technology Standards Project

<http://cnets.iste.org/index2.html>

(Scroll to Search Lessons. Pull down Awesome Authors.)

Cisneros, Sandra, *Pelitos/Hairs*; illustrated by Terry Ybanez (Random House, 1997).

Garza, Carmen Lomas, *In My Family/En Mi Familia*; illustrated by Carmen Lomas Garza (Childrens Book Press, 2000).