

The Party for Papá Luis / La fiesta para Papá Luis

By Diane Gonzales Bertrand
Illustrated by Alejandro Galindo

SUMMARY



Everybody loves a birthday party, and there's a lot to enjoy at Papá Luis' fiesta! The children excitedly count the candy that will fill the piñata. The nieces bring the candles for the birthday cake that Mamá Marta baked. Family and friends begin to arrive, and soon, they surprise Papá Luis with his special celebration.

Told in lively verse, this cumulative tale builds from one page to the next as popular children's book author Diane Gonzales Bertrand presents a charming look at a big family gathering that celebrates the patriarch's birthday. Like her previous award-winning book, *The Empanadas that Abuela Made / Las empanadas que hacía la abuela*, Diane Gonzales Bertrand gives emerging readers another book that creates confidence and skills through repetition and sentence building.

Accompanied by Alejandro Galindo's whimsical illustrations of big-eyed children and elderly family members dancing and enjoying each other, this fun-filled fiesta is sure to delight children ages 4 – 8. After reading this appealing bilingual story, kids will eagerly begin planning their own birthday parties.

ABOUT THE BOOK

GENRE: Fiction	ATOS ENGLISH: 4
Hardcover	ATOS SPANISH: 4.5
978-1-5588-5532-8	INTEREST LEVEL: LG
32 pages, 11 x 8 ½	LEXILE: 400L
AR Quiz: 136540	LEXILE (SP): 540L

THEMES

LATINO/HISPANIC INTEREST, FAMILY, CELEBRATIONS, JOY, HOLIDAYS, FOOD, SURPRISES, REPETITION, FRIENDS, DANCING FICTION

VOCABULARY

The Party for Papá Luis / La fiesta para Papá Luis has a number of words that your students may not be familiar with. Before or after the reading, review some or all of the words listed below.

Content Specific

piñata, nieces, surprise, candy, candles

Academic

hurried, counted, filled, swung, hung, brought, followed

ELL / ESL Teaching Strategies

Encourage your Spanish-speaking students to translate the Spanish words in the English text for the class.

Act out the following words found in the text: sip and ground. Encourage your students to act out these words when they hear them during the reading.

Before Reading

Bring objects to start story discussion like a piñata (star-shaped suggested), birthday candles, a bag with wrapped candies or pictures of birthday cakes. Ask children to look at the front cover of the book and predict the story.

Pre-Reading Questions

1. Have you ever had a piñata at your birthday party? How about at a friend's party?
2. Have you been to a surprise party or been surprised?
3. Do you like to dance?
4. How do you feel about clowns?

Exploring the Book

1. Read and talk about the title of the book. Ask the students what they think the title, *The Party for Papá Luis / La fiesta para Papá Luis*, means. Invite them to practice saying the title in English and Spanish.
2. Take students on a book walk and draw attention to the following parts of the book: front and back covers, title page, introduction, English and Spanish text, illustrations, backmatter, dedications, author's and illustrator's notes.
3. Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the front and back cover and where the story might take place.

Establishing a Purpose for Reading

Ask students to read to find out:

- What it means to have a surprise party
- Why we celebrate birthdays

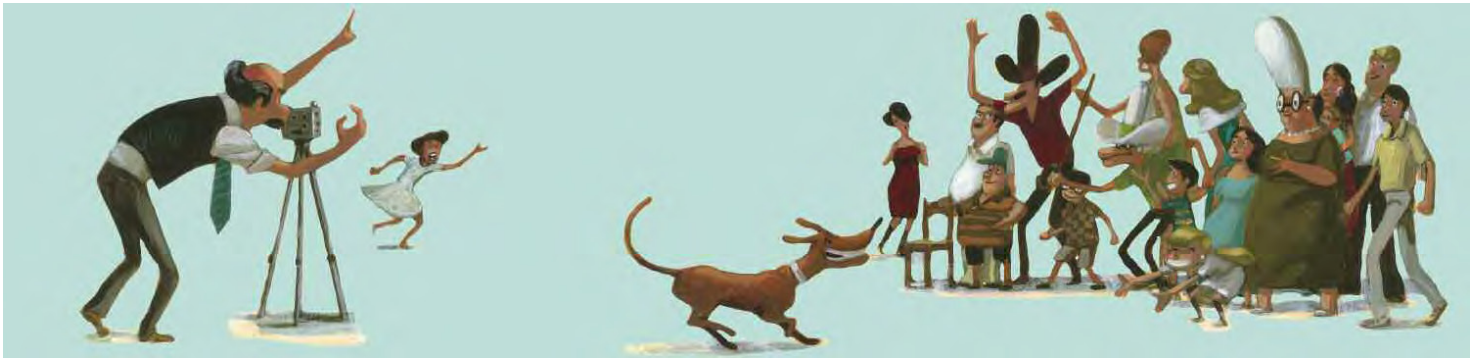
Encourage students to consider why the author, Diane Gonzales Bertrand, wants to share this story with young people. Ask students to also consider why the text is presented in both English and Spanish.



As Reading Progresses

- There are text dividers, illustrations to separate the English lines from the Spanish text. The illustrator follows a sequence between the text dividers and the main picture. Pause during the storytelling to point out and discuss the connections between each pair of illustrations.

- The words “the piñata that hung at the party for Papá Luis” can be recited in chorus after the second sequence to increase interest and participation.



After Reading

- Young children can be invited to design, draw, and decorate their own piñatas, giant birthday cake, or draw other ideas for gifts a man like Papá Luis would enjoy.
- Make a class list of names used for grandparents.
- Older children can write descriptive paragraphs about their favorite birthday memory.

Other Follow-Up / Extension Activities

Ask Students to create the following:

- Paper chains
- One long sentence

MEET THE AUTHOR



DIANE GONZALES BERTRAND is the author of numerous books for children and young adults. Her picture books for children include *We Are Cousins / Somos primos* (Piñata Books, 2007) and *The Empanadas that Abuela Made / Las empanadas que hacía la abuela* (Piñata Books, 2003), and her books for intermediate readers include *The Ruiz Street Kids / Los muchachos de la calle Ruiz* (Piñata Books, 2006) and *Upside Down and Backwards / De cabeza y al revés* (Piñata Books, 2005). A native of San Antonio, Texas, she teaches writing at St. Mary's University where she is Writer in Residence.

ABOUT PIÑATA  BOOKS

Piñata Books is an imprint of Arte Público Press, the oldest and largest publisher of contemporary and historical literature written by US Hispanics: Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and others. Piñata Books is dedicated to the publication of children's and young adult literature focusing on US Hispanic culture and has made giant strides in filling the void that exists in American publishing and literature: books that accurately reflect themes, characters and customs unique to US Latino culture. Books published under the imprint are designed to serve as a bridge from school to home and to support family literacy and elementary school education. Discover more surprises at <https://artepublicopress.com/about-pinata-books-2/>.

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