

THE PALETERO MAN

Written by Lucky Diaz, illustrated by Micah Player



SUMMARY

A boy races through his neighborhood searching for the *paletero*, the popsicle man. After losing his money, helpful neighbors return it, and everyone celebrates together with colorful *paletas* and community joy on a sunny day.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

We chose this joyful story because it celebrates kindness, community, bilingual Spanish and English, and how neighbors help us in our daily lives.

VOCABULARY & SIGHT WORDS

Define these words together:

- **Paletero:** one who sells frozen treats
- **Paleta:** Mexican-style frozen fruit pop
- **Sandia:** the Spanish word for "watermelon"
- **Miel:** the Spanish word for "honey"
- **Sabor:** the Spanish word for "flavor"
- **Coins:** metal pieces of money

Notice these words in the story

hot	day	city
friend	find	where
hear	one	all

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE READING

1. What do you notice on the cover?
2. What do you think a paletero does?
3. What frozen treat would you choose on a hot day?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING

1. Why is the boy hurrying through the neighborhood?
2. What Spanish words do you hear?
3. How are the neighbors helping him?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING

1. How did the boy feel when he lost his money?
2. Why did the neighbors return the coins?
3. What does this story teach us about community?

EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITIES DURING OR AFTER A READ-ALOUD

- Find and point to letters in words such as paleta, money, and friend. Practice saying each letter's sound.
- Clap the syllables in words like paletero, aroma, neighborhood, horchata
- Play "I Spy" using objects in the illustrations: "I spy something that begins with the /p/ sound."
- Draw a new paleta flavor using bright colors. Give it a name and describe its ingredients.

