

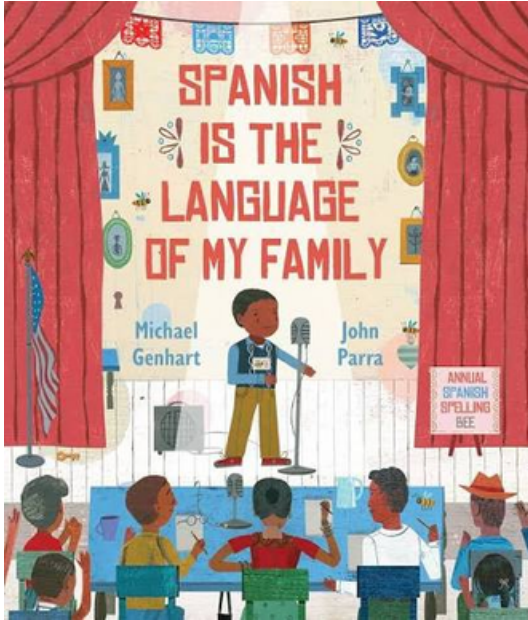
READ-ALoud GUIDE

BEST FOR AGES 4-8



SPANISH IS THE LANGUAGE OF MY FAMILY

Written by Michael Genhart and illustrated by John Parra



SUMMARY

Manolo is excited to enter his school's Spanish spelling bee. As he practices with Abuela, she shares memories of growing up when children at her school were punished for speaking Spanish. Her stories help Manolo understand why preserving their language matters and inspire him to keep practicing, even when the words are difficult. When the spelling bee arrives, Manolo carries his family's history and pride with him, celebrating the language that connects generations.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

It's a moving celebration of bilingualism, family history, cultural pride, and resilience that shows how language can connect generations and keep important family stories alive.

VOCABULARY

lengua: the Spanish word for a language spoken
familia: the Spanish for people who are related
juntos: the Spanish word for together with others
corazón: the Spanish word for heart
abuela: the Spanish word for grandmother
bilingual: able to use two languages
heritage: traditions passed down through family
memory: something remembered from the past
celebrate: honor something with joy or pride

fuerte: the Spanish word for strong
poderoso: Spanish for being full of great power
respeto: Spanish for showing care for others
generation: people born around the same time
determined: firmly decided to reach a goal
spelling bee: contest where people spell words
practice: repeat something to improve a skill
punishment: consequence for breaking a rule
proud: pleased with yourself or others

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE READING

1. What languages do people in your family or community speak?
2. Why might a language be important to a family?
3. What do you think happens at a spelling bee?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING

1. Why is Manolo practicing Spanish words with his abuela?
2. How does Abuela feel when she remembers speaking Spanish at school?
3. What does Manolo learn about his family while preparing for the bee?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING

1. Why is Spanish especially important to Manolo and his family?
2. How does Abuela's story change the way Manolo thinks?
3. What is something your family has passed down that is important?

EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITIES DURING OR AFTER A READ-ALOUD

- Draw a family tree and add languages, words, or sayings family members use.
- Choose several Spanish words from the book and practice spelling them aloud.
- Illustrate vocabulary such as familia, corazón, juntos, and respeto.
- Ask a family member about a word, tradition, song, or story they recall from childhood.
- Create a poster celebrating the languages spoken in your classroom or community.
- Draw two pictures showing Abuela's school experience and Manolo's experience.
- Choose a word that matters to your family and explain why.
- Role-play Manolo practicing for the spelling bee with Abuela.
- Make a "word wall" with favorite words in different languages.
- Write or draw a short note thanking someone who helped teach you something.