

The Birthday Swap

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

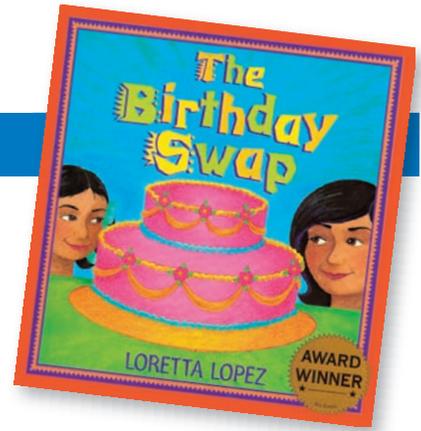
Themes: Latino Culture, Birthdays, Family Traditions

Grade Level: K to 3rd grade

Book Brief: Lori's looking for the perfect gift for her older sister, but Lori's the one who winds up with a birthday surprise!

Author & Illustrator: Loretta Lopez

Content Connections: Social Studies, Geography, Math, Art, Writing



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Who are the girls on the front cover? What are they looking at? What do you think the title means? What predictions can you make about the story based on the title?

The Pictures: For younger students, take a brief picture walk. Discuss how the pictures give you clues about Lori and her family. The pages with text have



illustrated borders. What's inside the borders? Why did the artist pick those particular items?

Prior Knowledge: Show your students where Mexico is on a map or globe. The little girl in the story lives near the border and travels between the US and Mexico to spend time with family. Ask students who they normally spend their birthdays with.

Vocabulary: celebrate, piñata, sugary, mercado, curio, reunion

Purpose for Reading: Students can practice inferring: "As we read today, think about how you would describe the relationship between Lori and her family."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ When is Lori's birthday?
- ◆ Why is it so important to Lori to get Cookie a gift this year?

- ◆ Why are Lori's choices not good for Cookie?
- ◆ How does the author help you understand the words in Spanish? What about unfamiliar words in English?
- ◆ What is a birthday swap?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: "How would you describe Lori's relationship with her family? Use examples from the story to support your ideas."

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: "Is the mercado different from where you normally shop for food? How so?" "How old do you think you'll be before you don't want a birthday party? Why?" "When do you think Lori's family came up with the birthday swap idea? How do you think they did it without Lori noticing?"

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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