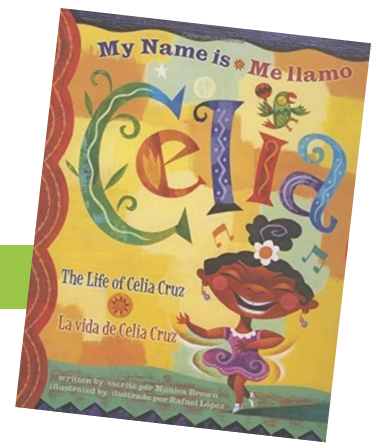




My Name is Celia/Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Cultural Identity, Music, Following Your Dreams

Book Brief: The vibrant true story of Celia Cruz, who grew up singing in Cuba and became the legendary "Queen of Salsa" after moving to the United States!

Author:
Monica Brown

Illustrator:
Rafael López

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "What kind of music do you love? How does music make you feel?" Point out that this is a bilingual book written in both English and Spanish, reflecting Celia's Cuban heritage and the languages she spoke.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about what this book is mostly about. What is the main idea of Celia's story?"



Think Aloud: I'm thinking about what this whole story is about. It's mainly about Celia Cruz and how she became a famous salsa singer by sharing her love of music. That seems to be the main idea.

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does Celia love to do?
- Where does Celia grow up?
- What happens when Celia moves to a new country?
- Why does Celia like to create music?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What is this book mainly about? What can we learn from Celia about following your dreams?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What is something special about your culture or family that you could share with others through art, music, or storytelling?" Encourage students to create a mini presentation about a song, dance, food, story, or tradition from their family or culture. They can share it with the class through drawing, bringing in music to play, teaching a few words in another language, or demonstrating a movement or tradition.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Read other titles by Giles Andreae, such as [Brave Dave](#) and [Free to Be Elephant Me](#).
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.