El Rincón Bilingüe Lesson Plan

Title of Book: *Lucha Libre: The Man in the Silver Mask – A Bilingual Cuento*

Author: Xavier Garza

Illustrator: Xavier Garza

Grade Level: 2-7

Themes: family relationships; intergenerational relationships; lucha libre; characters; popular culture; Mexican traditions.

Objective: Introducing students to conversations about family traditions and intergenerational familial relationships; introducing the Mexican and popular tradition of *luchadores* and *lucha libre*; students will also design their own luchador mascaras, which will prompt them to talk about character traits.

Purpose(s): introduce intergenerational familial relationships; explore the Mexican tradition of lucha libre; explore character traits; introduce basic vocabulary in Spanish and English around the themes of the book.

Before Reading

Opening Book Introduction

Today, we are going to be following a young boy named Carlitos and his grandad, Papá Lupe, as they go to the arena in Mexico City to watch lucha libre!

Draw on personal experience & activate prior knowledge

- *What is one tradition you have with your family? What is your favorite part about it?*
- *What is an important memory you have from your childhood? What does it mean to you?*
- *Do you know anything about lucha libre?* Here, take a moment to explain that *lucha libre* is Mexican-style professional wrestling characterized by vibrant masks, tag team matches, and storylines between heroes (*técnicos*) and villains (*rudos*). Explain that it is a big part of Mexican popular culture

Set a purpose for reading

Now, let's find out what lucha libre is all about, why masks are important in lucha libre, who are los rudos y los técnicos and the biggest mystery of all, who is the Man in the Silver Mask!

During Reading

Prompts for encouraging children's thinking about the story

P.1-2 - When Carlitos narrates the scene:

What is Carlitos doing in Mexico City? Who is he with?

P. 7-8 – When Carlitos is choosing the mascara as souvenir:

What mask does Carlitos pick?

P.9-10 - When Carlitos wishes Tío Vicente would be there:

Who is missing in this family outing?

P. 11-12 – When the crowd starts booing as *los rudos* come into the ring:

Why do you think people are booing?

P. 11-12 – When *los rudos* come into the ring:

What does it mean to be a rudo?

P. 19-20 – When *los técnicos* come into the ring:

What does it mean to be a técnico?

P. 27-28 – When The Man in the Silver Mask enter the ring:

What does the man in the Silver Mask do before entering the ring?

31-32: When the fight is over:

Who wins the fight?

33-34: After the match is over and Carlitos goes outside:

Who does Carlitos see at the end of the fight?

Suggested pages to draw children's attention to an aspect of the story

P. 13- 28 – You can point out how each luchador's costume (design, color, texture) and actions on the ring contribute to their character:

- El Cucuy: scary-looking; fanged teeth; snorting and growling like a beast.
- El Cavernícola: mean dark eyes like they patched together out of dead animals; carries a wooden club
- El Vampiro: leathery wings and giant head like a bat.
- El Toro Grande: very tall; wears a mask with two large horns; strong, big arms.
- El Gallo Enmascarado: has the fighting heart of a rooster; never backs down.
- El Hombre de la Máscara Plateada: the greatest masked luchador who has ever lived; honorable.

After Reading

Prompts/questions for encouraging thinking and/or checking predictions

- *Who do you think is behind the Man In the Silver Mask?*
- *Who was your favorite rudo? Who was your favorite técnico?*
- *Would you like to attend a lucha libre match?*

Make Your Own Luchador Mask

Preparation

1. Prepare mask templates in advance (with eye holes pre-cut if needed).
2. Set up a variety of decorating materials.
3. Briefly introduce the concepts of *técnico* (hero) and *rudo* (villain).

Materials

- Pre-cut paper mask templates
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Stickers, feathers, or other decorative materials
- String or elastic bands (to wear masks)
- Hole punch and scissors

Steps

Transition from read-aloud

In the story, luchadores have special masks and identities. Today, you'll get to create your own!

Mask Creation (10-15 minutes)

- Give each child a mask template.
- Invite them to decorate based on their chosen identity.
- Encourage creativity and personalization (colors, symbols, patterns).
- Ask children to create a name and character traits for their luchador.
- Encourage use of Spanish, English, or both:
    - Example: *El Rayo*, *La Estrella*, *Super Tigre*

Sharing & Movement (5–7 minutes)

- Invite children to present their luchador:
    - *What is your luchador's name?*
    - *Are you a técnico or rudo?*
- Allow children to act out a pose or "luchador entrance."



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