

Book Title: Playing Lotería / El Juego de la Lotería

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Introduction

Begin by asking students:

- What are some things you like to do together with your family?
- Do you have any games you play that connect you to your culture or language?

Explain that Playing Lotería is about a grandmother and child that form a special bond learning languages and playing a game together.

Read and discuss

Introduce vocabulary words: loteria, mariachi band

Possible discussion questions:

- At the beginning of the story, how does the boy feel about visiting his grandmother?
- What deal does abuela make with the boy?
- What do you notice as the boy and his abuela play lotería together?
- What do you think the author is trying to teach us?

Activity

Play lotería with your class! There are many free versions of lotería available online. Print off boards and cards and play with your class.

Distribute lotería boards to each student and explain the rules:

- Each board has a grid of images and words.
- The teacher (or a student caller) will draw cards and call out the images in Spanish (adding English translations as needed).
- Students mark the corresponding image on their board if they have it.
- The first player to get four in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally) shouts “¡Lotería!”

Final discussion:

- How did playing lotería help you learn new Spanish words?
- Why do you think traditions like lotería are important for families and communities?