

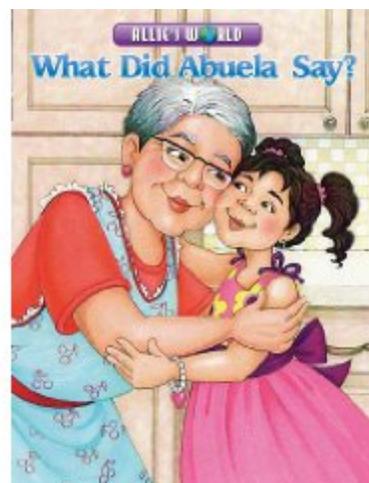
Teacher's Guide

What Did Abuela Say?

By Karen Valentin

Illustrated by Michelle Doremkamp

Published by Marimba Books



Book Description:

Allie loves Sunday dinners with her family. She loves the yummy arroz and pollo they eat. She loves spending time with her granddad and grandma, Abuelo and Abuela. And she loves the funny stories everyone shares at the table. But when Abuela tells stories in Spanish, Allie feels left out because she's the only one in the family who doesn't understand the language. Allie is anxious to know What did Abuela say? And Abuela is going to help her learn. This is the first book in a series called Allie's World, which focuses on little Allie and her Puerto Rico-American family.

Target Ages: 4-8

Themes: family, Latino culture, food, belonging, problem solving, intergenerational relationships

Pre-Reading Questions:

What traditions does your family have?

What meals are special to your family? Why?

What's your favorite meal?

Discussion Questions:

What's Allie's problem?

Why are all of the grown-ups laughing?

What does Allie do to try to figure out what Abuela said?

Why does Allie start getting mad?

What does Abuela share with Allie?

How did Abuela feel when she was little and didn't understand much English?

How did Abuela feel when people laughed at her?

How does Allie feel after hearing Abuela's story?

How is Abuela going to help Allie?

What is Allie's and Abuela's big joke?

Define these Spanish words:

abuela

abuelo

pollo

arroz

tia

nina

nino

muchas gracias

mami

flan

WRITING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Tell a story about a time you didn't understand something. How did it make you feel?

Write a list of things that make you mad. What can you do to feel better?

What do you have in common with your grandma, grandpa or elder in your family? How are you different? Write about your similarities and differences.

Family matters a lot to Allie. Write about what family means to you.

ART

Draw a picture of you and one of your grandparents or older family members.

Draw a picture of your favorite meal.

Create a collage of things you love to do with your family.

About the Author

Karen Valentin is a Puerto Rican-American writer who has authored several books including *The Flavor of Our Hispanic Faith* and *Hallway Diaries*. A graduate of Fordham University with a B.A. in English Literature, she is also a contributor to Guideposts Books. Karen lives in New York City with her husband and children. *What Did Abuela Say?* is the first title in her Allie's World picture book series.

About the Illustrator

Michelle Dorenkamp has been drawing since age three. She earned a BFA in Illustration and has since illustrated more than fifty children's books. Her work is also featured monthly in National Wildlife's *Wild Animal Baby* magazine. Michelle works from her home studio using traditional watercolors, pen and inks, markers and Prismacolors as well as digital illustration. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri, and enjoys spending free time with her family, especially her granddaughter Katlyn. Her first illustrated title for Marimba Books is *What Did Abuela Say?*



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