

Spanish is the Language of My Family

Written By: Michael Genhart

Illustrated By: John Parra

Synopsis: As a boy prepares for his school's Spanish spelling bee, he asks his grandmother for help with some of the words he doesn't know how to spell yet. When she studies with him, she tells him how different things were back when she was a girl, when she was only allowed to speak English in school. This only inspires him to study even harder and make his family proud.

Suggested Reading Date: September 7th (Grandparents Day); September 15-October 15 (Latin American Heritage Month); June (National Spanish Spelling Bee)

Activity Descriptions:

- Read the pictures of the story as well as the words. What do you notice in the background?
- Discuss. What are some of the stories Manolito's abuela shares about when she was a little girl?
- Make a graph of the home language the students speak. How many different languages are in our class?
- Students take turns picking a word from the story and spell it in Spanish (see Spanish Alphabet on the last page).
- Make a card for your grandparent.
- Organize a Spanish Spelling Bee at your school.

Related Websites:

- Author's website - Michael Genhart: <https://michaelgenhart.com/>
- Illustrator's website - John Parra: <https://johnparraart.com/>
- Children's Books Spotlight Series - John Parra Interview: https://youtu.be/qT3BQeF_seE?si=9fTbB3hFTck1z12t
- National Spanish Spelling Bee: <https://nationalspanishspellingbee.com/>
- Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/_ZpI451-pD0?si=SEuDXWGWib-7IZdP

Text to Text Connections:

- *Growing An Artist* by John Parra
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero
- *Ten Beautiful Things* by Molly Griffin
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena

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