

Prime Time Curriculum
Favorites Series – Bilingual (Spanish/English)

Session 1: The Oral Tradition – “What Did People Do Before TV or the Internet?”

- A demonstration and background of the oral tradition as it leads to the written word and reading. Examples include Mother Goose rhymes, jump rope rhymes, poems, and narratives. The book provided contains an example of storytelling and can be utilized as a tool to discuss the oral tradition.

Session 2: Fairness/Justicia – “Do the Right Thing”

- *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs/La Verdadera Historia De Los Tres Cerditos*
- *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*
- *Alexander Y El Dia Terrible, Horrible, Espantoso, Horroroso*

Session 3: Greed/Avaricia – “What’s in it for me?”

- *A Spoon for Every Bite/Una Cuchara Para Cada Bocado*
- *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters*
- *Las Bellas Hijas de Mufaro*

Session 4: Courage/Valor – “No Guts, No Glory”

- *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun/La Mujer Que Brillaba Aun Mas Que el Sol*
- *Where the Wild Things Are*
- *Donde Viven los Monstruos*

Session 5: Determination/Determinacion – “Just Do It!”

- *My Very Own Room/Mi Propio Cuartito*
- *Uncle Nacho’s Hat/El Sombrero del Tio Nacho*

Session 6: Dreams/Esperanza – “Dare to Dream”

- *Going Home/Regresando al Hogar*
- *Amazing Grace*
- *Graciela Asombrosa*

- *Dalia's Wondrous Hair / El Maravilloso Cabello de Dalia*
- *I Need a Hug / Necesito Un Abrazo*

When facilitating discussions, please use the following questions:

Session 1: The Oral Tradition – “What Did People Do Before TV or the Internet?”

Zombies Don't Eat Veggies! / Los Zombis No Comen Verduras!

Mo secretly loves vegetables, which is not at all like a typical zombie. Soon he begins to question if he is a zombie at all.

- Name one way you're the same as Mo and one way you're different from Mo.
- How are you different from or the same as your family? Why do you think that is?
- What does Mo need to do in order to reveal his secret? Why?
- What do you think would happen if Mo never reveals his secret love of vegetables?

Mo makes gazpacho for his family hoping they love it. But when they don't like it one bit, Mo says, “maybe other zombies don't eat vegetables, but I do.”

- What do you think is the toughest obstacle Mo faces in telling this to his parents? Why is it the toughest?
- What do you think it means to be brave?
- Is it important for Mo to be able to tell his family the truth? Why?

Session 2: Fairness/Justicia – “Do the Right Thing”

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs / La Verdadera Historia De Los Tres Cerditos

- How is this story different from the original story of the *Three Little Pigs*?
- If you were a judge in a court, would you find the wolf guilty? Why or why not? What in his story would make you believe him or not believe him?
- The wolf blames the fact that he’s being jailed on two things: first, the fact that nature arrange it so that wolves eat animals most people think are cute: bunnies and such. And so, people think wolves are mean and vicious. This raises an interesting question: Would a jury made up of wolves have found him guilty? What is the second thing the wolf blames for being jailed?
- Imagine you are a wolf. You eat bunnies for breakfast and chipmunks for lunch. Would you have found the wolf in this story guilty? Why or why not? Is it fair to have the wolf tried by a jury of pigs? Of people? Why or why not?
- The wolf blames the press, the newspapers, saying they never told his side of the story, only the pigs’ side. This too raises an interesting question: Is everything you read in a newspaper or online, or see on the television true? If not, how can you tell what is and what is not true? How do you know whom to believe and whom not to believe? Is there anything in this story that makes you suspect the wolf is not telling the truth?
- Have you ever found yourself with the problem the wolf had: when you insist someone else is to blame but no one will believe you? How did you handle it? Did you ever try to blame something on someone else so you wouldn’t get punished? Have you ever been blamed for something someone else did? A brother? A sister? A friend? How did you handle that?

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day / Alexander Y El Dia Terrible, Horrible, Espantoso, Horroroso

- Who was to blame for Alexander’s terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day? Who did Alexander think was to blame?
- Did anything happen to Alexander that wasn’t fair? Did anything happen that was?
- Have you ever had a day like Alexander’s? How did you handle it?
- When you are having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day, do you wish you could be someplace else, far away? Where would that place be for you? Why there?

Session 3: Greed/ Avaricia – “What’ in it for me?”

A Spoon for Every Bite/Una Cuchara Para Cada Bocado

- The couple sort of tricked their wealthy neighbor by telling him about a person they knew who used a new spoon for every bite and then selling the spoons their wealthy neighbor threw away. At the end of the story, we discover that the friend the couple were referring to used a new spoon for every bite because his spoon was a tortilla and he had eaten it after every bite. Do you think the couple were wrong to trick their neighbor? Do you think they really tricked him?
- The theme for tonight is greed. Who do you think, if anyone, was greedy in this story?
- The wealthy neighbor becomes poor purchasing spoons for every bite to try and outdo the man the couple told him about. Have you or someone you know ever tried to outdo someone? Why? What happened?

Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters / Las Bellas Hijas de Mufaro

- Does this story remind you of any other stories you’ve read or heard? If so, which ones?
- How is this story like Cinderella’s? How is it different? Which story do you think is a better one? Why?
- The writer of this story makes it clear from the beginning that the “losing” daughter will be a servant in the palace of the daughter who becomes queen. What kind of servant do you think Nyasha would have made? How about Manyara? Why?
- In this story, the kind and good daughter is rewarded. That happens a lot in fairy tales like Cinderella. Does that happen in real life? Are good people always rewarded for being kind and generous? Are greedy people always punished?
- Do you think Nyasha expected to be rewarded for her kindness and charity? How do you know? Do you think she would have continued being kind and charitable even if she had not become queen? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think the teller of this tale made the animal Nyasha was nice to in her garden a snake? The man who wrote the story could have picked any animal at all. Why do you think he didn’t make it a bunny or baby deer or something cute and fuzzy?

Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters could also be used to discuss questions about kinds of countries, kinds of governments. After all, it is, finally, about how a ruler is selected and what qualities he or she must have to rule legitimately.

Session 4: Courage/Valor – “No Guts, No Glory”

The Woman Who Outshone the Sun / La Mujer Que Brillaba Aun Mas Que el Sol

- Why do you think Lucia comes to town?
- The story is called The Woman Who Outshone the Sun. Do you think that Lucia outshone the sun? Why or why not?
- Why do you think some of the villages were mean to her?
- When Lucia decides to leave the village, the river would not leave her. Why do you think the river loved Lucia so much, and chose to go with Lucia rather than stay in the winding riverbed?
- In this story, the town loses the river. Do you think that a place could lose a river? Why or why not?

Where the Wild Things Are / Donde Viven los Monstruos

- This story is about a pretend adventure. Or maybe a dream? How can you tell when you are dreaming? Do you ever dream? Do you know you are in a dream when the events are happening or do the events in your dream seem real? How can you be sure—really sure—that you are not right now, home in bed, dreaming that you’re at a Prime Time meeting?
- There are monsters in this story. Lots of children’s stories from all around the world, and from the most ancient times too, are filled with monsters. Why do you think that is? Why did children in ancient Greece and children in Africa and children in colonial America and children today all like monster stories? And the scarier the better!
- Even adults like monster stories—especially in the movies. Have you seen any monster movies? Even today when we don’t really believe in monsters anymore, people find them fun and exciting. Why do you think that is?
- Sent to his room, bored and alone, Max goes on an adventure in his imagination. And Max has a very good imagination! Have you ever been sent to your room with nothing to do for a long time? How did you pass the time?
- Is adventure necessary for people to lead satisfying, happy lives? Do children need adventure in their lives to be happy? How about to grow up right? Do adults need adventure too? Why or why not?
- Did you ever have an adventure? A real one? Has anyone in your family ever told you about one? What was it?
- Do you think people can have too much adventure? Have you?

Session 5: Determination/Determinacion – “Just Do It!”

My Very Own Room / Mi Propio Cuartito

- The family in this book is very large and lives in a very small house. Although they are very crowded together, they take in relatives coming to the US for a while, making things even more crowded. Why? Would you double or triple the number of people sleeping in your room for two months to help them out? Do you think most people would? Why or why not?
- Suppose you were moving to a new home a long, long way from your old home like the family that lives with Amada’s family for two months, and you were told you could only take one thing—one favorite thing—from your old home along with you. There is absolutely no room to take anything else. What would you take? Why that?
- The little girl in this story clearly thinks (certainly no room of hers) can be complete without books. Do you think that’s so? Why?
- If you were allowed to only have two books for your very own to keep by your bedside, what two books would you pick? Why those two?

Uncle Nacho’s Hat / El Sombrero del Tio Nacho

- Just think, is Uncle Nacho really eager to get rid of that old hat? Or do you think he’s kind of fond of it? Uncle Nacho talks to his hat! Why do you think the writer has him do that? What do you think is going to happen the day after this story ends? Do you think Uncle Nacho will be entirely happy with his new hat? Or do you think he will miss the old one and wish he had it back? Why do you think that? What in the story makes you think that?
- Can you think of a solution to the problem in this story other than the one the author offers? For example, is there any reason why Uncle Nacho can’t keep both hats?
- Ambrosia’s advice to Uncle Nacho is to stop thinking about the past – his old hat – and to think instead about the present and the future – his new hat. Do you think that was good advice for Uncle Nacho? For everyone? Why or why not? Can you think of times when that might not be good advice?
- Are there times when it is important to focus on the past? For families that move to new places, for example, is it important to think about, and to remember, “the old country” or “home”? Or is it better to focus, as Ambrosia suggests, on the present and future only and to forget the past? What do you think? Why?
- Ambrosia’s gift, while meant as a kindness, at least in the short run creates all kinds of problems for Uncle Nacho and for others. (think of the poor man who gets beaten up because he was wearing Uncle Nacho’s old hat!) If you knew in advance that giving Uncle Nacho the hat would cause all this trouble, would you still give it to him? Why or why not?
- This story is a re-telling of a folk story from Nicaragua. Is the place this story happens really important to it? If this same tale was set in, say, Mexico or West Africa or Miami, Florida, would it be just as good a story or not? Why or why not?

- Another way to raise the same idea: Suppose you were going to re-tell this story and set it in Africa... or in California... or in Mexico. Would you have to change much in the story? What? Why?

Session 6: Dreams/Esperanza – “Dare to Dream”

Going Home/Regresando al Hogar

- Why does Carlos’s mother have two ideas about home? Can you have two homes?
- What are “opportunities”? Why have they caused Carlos’s family to move away from La Perla to the United States?
- Do you think Carlos would be happy if his family moved back to Mexico? Why or why not?
- What are some of the differences between La Perla and the United States?
- What makes a place “home”? What would a place have to have or be like in order for you to think of it as “home”?
- It is said that “home is where the heart is”. It is also said that “home is wherever you hang your hat.” Are either, both, or neither of these true? Why?
- Why do Carlos’s parents think of La Perla as their home even though they don’t live there? What makes a place one’s home?

Amazing Grace / Graciela Asombrosa

- Who is the storyteller in Grace’s family? Who is the storyteller in your family? What kinds of stories do that person tell?
- Grace likes to listen to stories from her grandmother’s memory, probably family stories. Are family stories told where you live? Do you like to hear stories about your own family? Is it important to hear those kinds of stories? Why or why not? When you have a family, do you think you will tell your grandchildren stories about what life was like when you were a kid? Why or why not? What’s one story you would tell?
- Grace certainly has a very good imagination. Who else have you read about who has a very good imagination? Why do you think Grace’s imagination is so good? What does she do to help her imagination along? How is your imagination? Do you do anything to help it along?
- The writers of the book give you hints about the stories Grace has been hearing and the stories she’s been reading. Can you tell what some of them are from the pictures?
- You’ve read two stories for today’s session about people who have dreams: Fanny and Grace. One gives hers up and the other refuses to. If you were given a choice—you could become someone like Fanny or someone like Grace—which would you choose? Why that one?
- Do you know any grown-ups who had a wonderful dream when they were young and made it come true? Have any of those grown-ups told you about those dreams? Tell us.
- Do you know any grown-ups who had to give up a dream? Have any of those grown-ups told you about those dreams? Tell us.

Dalia's Wondrous Hair / El Maravilloso Cabello de Dalia

- What would you do if your hair grew as big as a tree?
- Would you ever want to help butterflies or bees grow?
- Have you ever surprised your parents/caregivers with something they didn't know?
- If you could grow anything in your hair, what would you grow?

I Need a Hug / Necesito Un Abrazo

- Why do you think the other animals were afraid of hugging the porcupine, even the big ones like the bear?
- Why do you think the animals ran away? Is there something else they could have done?
- Would you have run away if the porcupine asked you for a hug? Why?
- Why was the snake able to help the porcupine?
- Have you ever helped someone when they needed something? Or have you been helped?