

# Mango, Abuela, and Me

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## *Ideas for enjoying the book at home*

Created by Pam Spycher

### About the Book:

This is a delightful story about the power of love and being open to new learning. One day, Mia's Abuela (grandmother) arrives to live with Mia and her parents. Abuela has left her sunny house with parrots, rivers, and palm trees behind in her home country. Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela and discovers that Abuela can't read the words in English. Mia doesn't speak enough Spanish to tell Abuela about herself. So, Mia decides to help Abuela learn English and to learn Spanish from her Abuela. When they cook empanadas together, they teach each other some new words (masa-dough, pasas-raisins). Then Mia sees a parrot in the pet-shop window and has the perfect idea for how to help them all communicate a little better.

### Jump into Joyful Reading!

Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy one another's company as you read together. Here are some things you can say and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.



### Before Reading:

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?



### While Reading:

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?



### After Reading:







- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?
- What do you think the author wanted us to learn from this story?

Turn the page over for  
creative expression ideas!



# Creative Expression Activities

After you read the book, unleash your imagination and creativity! Use the ideas below to choose your own adventure. What other ideas did the book inspire your amazing mind to think of?

 <b>Creative Writing</b>	 <b>Visual and Digital Arts</b>	 <b>Kindness and Community</b>
<p>What happens next in Mango, Abuela, and Mia’s story? Draw and write what might happen after the last page in the book. Here are some things to think about when you draw and write:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which characters are on the page?</li> <li>• Where are the characters?</li> <li>• What are the characters doing?</li> <li>• What are the characters saying?</li> </ul> <p>When you’re finished with your page, find a friend or two. Take turns showing one another what you drew and reading what you wrote.</p> <p>After each person shares, be sure to give them compliments. What did you like? What made you curious?</p>	<p>Mango is a colorful and clever parrot who helps Mia and Abuela to communicate better. What kind of parrot would you like to have? Draw, paint, or create a collage of your own parrot. Ask an adult to find some photos or videos of parrots on the internet to see some examples. Here are some details to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will you call your parrot?</li> <li>• What colors will you use for your parrot’s feathers?</li> <li>• Where is your parrot? (ideas: in your home, in a tree, in the sky)</li> <li>• What is your parrot doing? (ideas: flying, perching, talking, observing)</li> </ul> <p>After, you can write a description of your parrot, if you want to.</p>	<p>Do you have a grandparent or another relative, family friend, or neighbor like Mia’s Abuela? Are they learning to speak your language better? Would you like to speak their language better? Here are some ideas you can try to help each other like Mia and Abuela did.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cook a dish together, and teach each other the words of each ingredient.</li> <li>• Teach each other common phrases, like “Hello. How are you today?” and practice saying them in both languages whenever you meet.</li> <li>• Write a bilingual A-B-C book together.</li> <li>• Teach each other a favorite song or poem in each language.</li> </ul>
 <b>Mindfulness and Self-Awareness</b>	 <b>Music and Movement</b>	 <b>Pretend Play</b>
<p>Ask an adult or older sibling to guide you through this “flying bird” meditation to help you feel calm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find a quiet place, and sit comfortably on the floor or in a chair. Let your arms hang down loose at the sides of your body. Close your eyes or look softly down at your nose.</li> <li>2. Breathe and flow: Inhale, and allow your arms to slowly float up. Exhale, and allow the arms to slowly float down. Repeat several times.</li> <li>3. Focus on feeling as light as a bird and moving without any effort. Feel how light your arms are and how the air moves through your fingers.</li> <li>4. Sit still and relaxed for a few moments. How do you feel?</li> </ol>	<p>It’s fun to pretend to be a parrot. Have you ever watched a parrot flying? Watch this video to see how magnificent they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5 Pet Macaw Parrots In Free Flight (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvwqnc_6MCo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvwqnc_6MCo</a>)</li> <li>2. Then, use your imagination to fly like a parrot. Do this where there is a lot of space so you can really soar.</li> <li>3. Ask an adult to play the music from the video you watched as you fly. Listen carefully to how different parts in the music piece make you feel like moving in different ways.</li> </ol>	<p>It’s fun to retell a story with puppets. Here’s an easy way to make some. Be sure to ask an adult for help, if you need it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draw Mango, Abuela, and Mia on paper. Use the illustrations in the book to help you.</li> <li>2. Draw an oval around each character.</li> <li>3. Cut out each character along the lines of the oval.</li> <li>4. Glue or tape each character onto a stick or piece of cardboard.</li> </ol> <p>Now it’s time to play! Act out the story using the puppets. If you want to, look at the pages in the book to help you remember important details.</p>