WELCOME TO CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

Thank you for bringing your classroom or family to see Chicago Children's Theatre's world premiere play CARMELA FULL OF WISHES. This study guide includes helpful games and activities to gently encourage meaningful conversations around the themes of the play. We also share resources from outside organizations to help young audiences process the challenges Carmela's family faces. We hope you enjoy!

Artwork © 2018 by Christian Robinson
DANDELION CRAFT ACTIVITY

1. You will need a popsicle stick, a pom pom, and a pipe cleaner.

2. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the pom pom.

3. Use the other end of the pipe cleaner to wrap around the popsicle stick.

4. Use the other end of the pipe cleaner to wrap around the popsicle stick.

5. You're done! Bring your dandelion with you into the theatre, it might come in handy...

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WRITE OR DRAW A WISH!

Think of a close friend. What could you wish for that they would love?

What's a wish you could give to an important grown-up in your life?

Is there a teacher you know that could use a wish from you?

Do you have a wish for your neighborhood?

What's your wish for the world?

And of course, what's a wish you have for yourself?
WORD MATCHING
Match the words to the pictures!

Mamí
Lotería
¡Feliz cumpleaños!
Fuchi
Hola
La Lavandería
Paletas
Te quiero

B I N G O

7 28 44 46 75
5 17 32 55 64
3 30 FREE 59 70
13 23 37 48 66
8 16 31 52 73
WORD SEARCH

- Housekeeper
- Papel Picado
- Greenhouse
- Locksmith
- Harvest
- Manure
- Weed
Carmela is following her brother Miguel to La Lavandería on her green scooter, but “Oh no!” Carmela has lost sight of Miguel and doesn’t know where he went. Can you help Carmela find La Lavandería?
It’s Carmela’s 7th Birthday and Mami has made her favorite. Chocolate Chip Pancakes!

Sometimes families and friends use food to communicate. We can use different ingredients to excite, to comfort, to cheer each other up, and so much more. Many families and cultures have favorite flavors that when they taste them, remind them of who they are and where they come from.

Pretend you’re making a birthday treat for someone special in your life. What would you like to communicate with each ingredient?

Example!

Recipe for: Ice Cream Sunday
Sprinkles = Joy
Whipped Cream = Laughter
Ice Cream = Love
Strawberries = Play
Marshmallows = Fun

Your Turn!

Recipe for:

_________________________ = _______________________
_________________________ = _______________________
_________________________ = _______________________
_________________________ = _______________________
_________________________ = _______________________

Draw your dessert!
WHERE WE OVERLAP
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH CARMELA?

Sometimes when actors prepare to play a character in a play, they think about the similarities they have with the character. For example, Carmela is adventurous. If the actor playing Carmela is adventurous too, she could use her own adventurousness on stage to help tell the story. It’s also helpful to remember that even different people facing different circumstances often have some things in common.

Pick a character from CARMELA FULL OF WISHES.
Write your similarities where the circles overlap!

Similarities between __________________ and __________________
Your Name
Character’s Name
FROM THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR:
Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson talk about their book Carmela Full of Wishes and share their creative process while addressing one of the story’s themes: undocumented workers and the effect that deportation has on their children, humanizing the stories students might have heard at home or read about online. You may choose to share this video with your students before reading the story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vIPY-NKDSI

CULTURAL APPRECIATION: THE HISTORY OF PAPEL PICADO
Illustrator Christian Robinson, incorporated Mexican cultural heritage and tradition into Carmela’s story through the use of papel picado to illustrate Carmela’s ideas for wishes. Papel picado is not only a popular party decoration, but an artform that is rooted in Mexico’s history. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUwNc8yIpqQ - Excerpt from Penguin School and Library Marketing Department and Ro Menéndez, teacher-librarian
RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND FAMILIES


For educators and families around the immigration system, including a lesson plan from Teaching Tolerance: https://www.informedimmigrant.com/guides/educators/

For teachers to help immigrant kids feel safe: https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_teachers_can_help_immigrant_kids_feel_safe

For educators to support undocumented students: https://dream.uic.edu/educator-resources-2/educator-resources/


Resources for families facing deportation separation: https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/resources-for-families-facing-deportation-separation/

CHICAGOLAND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS:

https://www.lawfirm4immigrants.com/immigration-nonprofits-chicago-il/

Little Village, ENLACE Chicago
https://www.enlacechicago.org/

Little Village & West Town, ERIE Neighborhood House www.eriehouse.org

Northside, AFIRE a Filipino organization
www.afirechicago.org

Chinese American service league
https://www.caslservice.org/

Albany Park, Latino Union
https://www.latinounion.org/