

chicago
children's
theatre

CARMELA

FULL OF WISHES

STUDY GUIDE



WELCOME TO CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

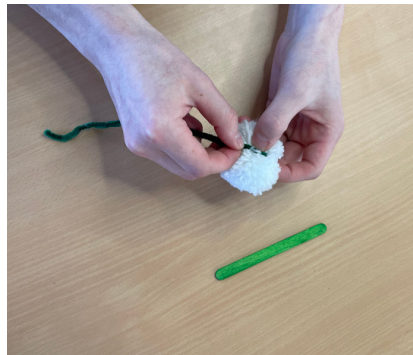
Thank you for bringing your classroom or family to see Chicago Children's Theatre's world premiere play CARMELA FULL OF WISHES. This study guide includes helpful games and activities to gently encourage meaningful conversations around the themes of the play. We also share resources from outside organizations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



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...



CARMELA

FULL OF WISHES

WRITE OR DRAW A WISH!

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

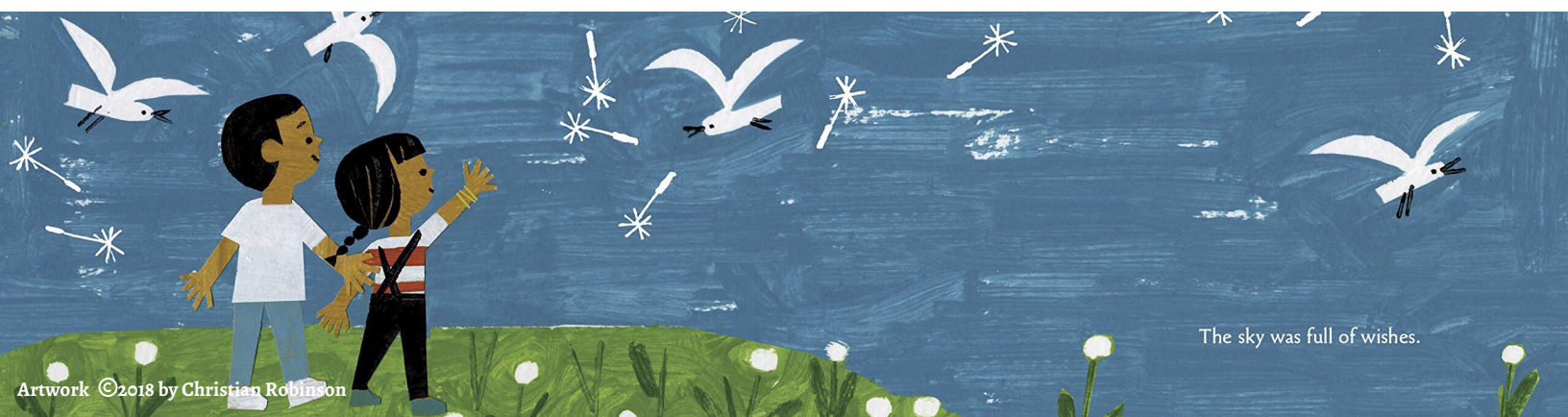
What's a wish you could give
to an important grown-up
in your life?

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?



The sky was full of wishes.

WORD MATCHING

Match the words to the pictures!



Mamá

Lotería

¡Feliz cumpleaños!

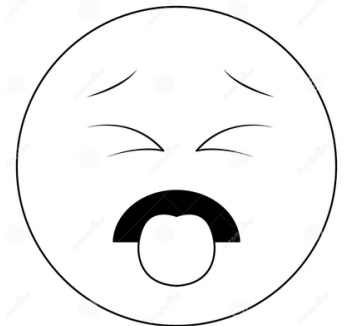
Fuchi

Hola

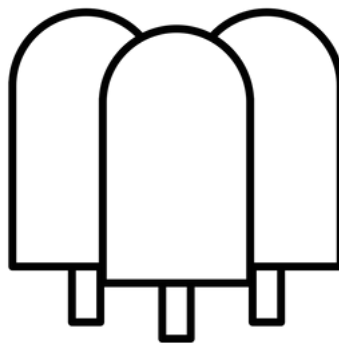
La Lavandería

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

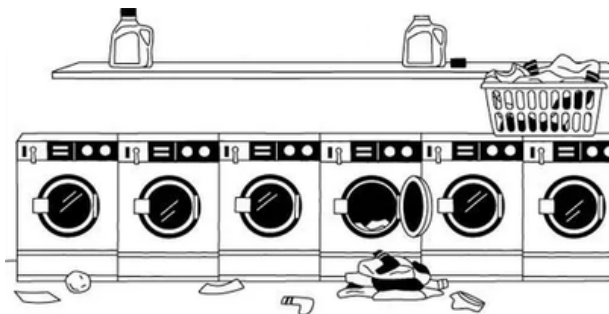
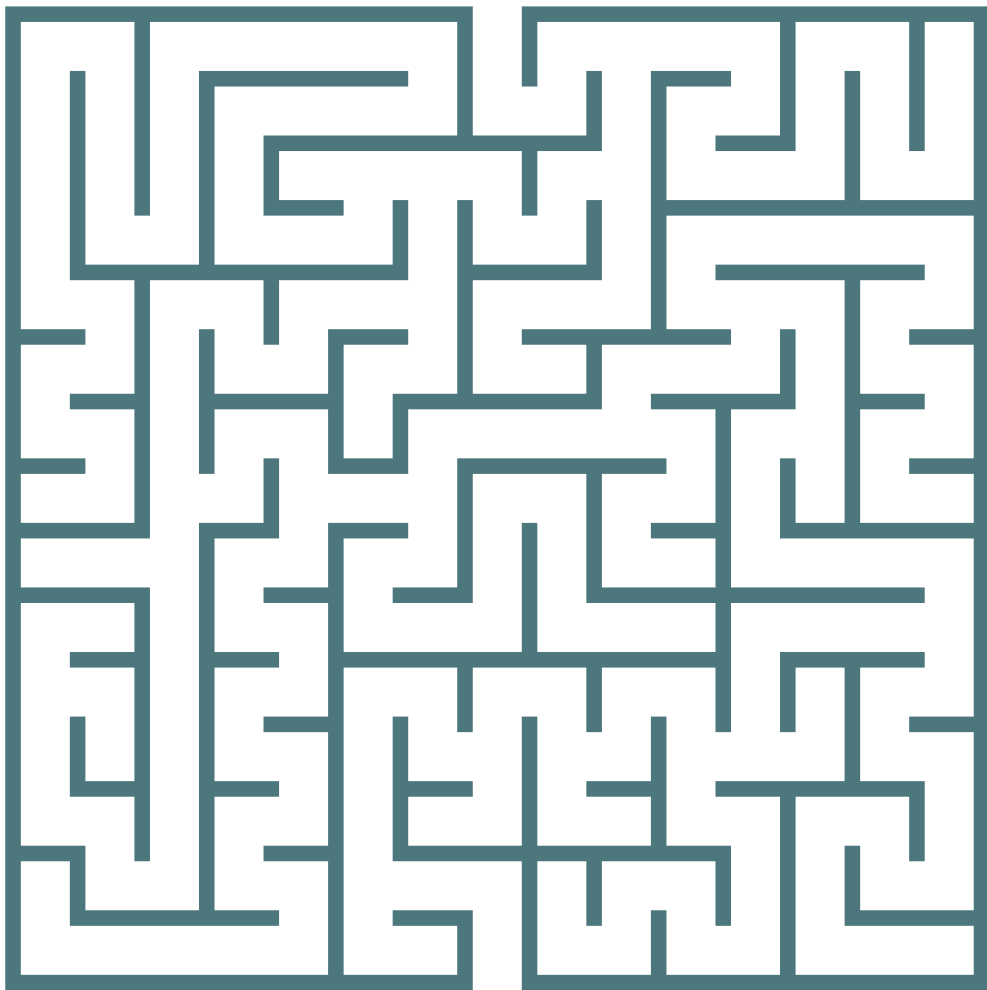
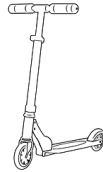
J M S L P V E T O H R Y R O L
J Z F K O O T D W N T W E H Q
R V M A N U R E M M U S S R J
H Z K I H G C D U B X E N X L
O L J H E K R K J V L H W Y J
U C T I A L H E N Y W X U F Q
S E N O I R X W E E C S D R L
E Y K R G R V E W N J V I N Y
K W M V X J Z E L B H Q Z R K
E G Z M W V V D S D X O B Y L
E O K P B L U X C T K N U V Y
P S Q O P K T N E X K N L S Y
E C X L O C K S M I T H V Y E
R J W C P A P E L P I C A D O
L F N X H U E Q F N N F P Y A

- Housekeeper
- Harvest
- Papel Picado
- Manure
- Greenhouse
- Weed
- Locksmith

MAZE ACTIVITY

GETTING TO THE LA LAVANDERÍA

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?



DRAWING ACTIVITY

MAMI'S PANCAKE RECIPE

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

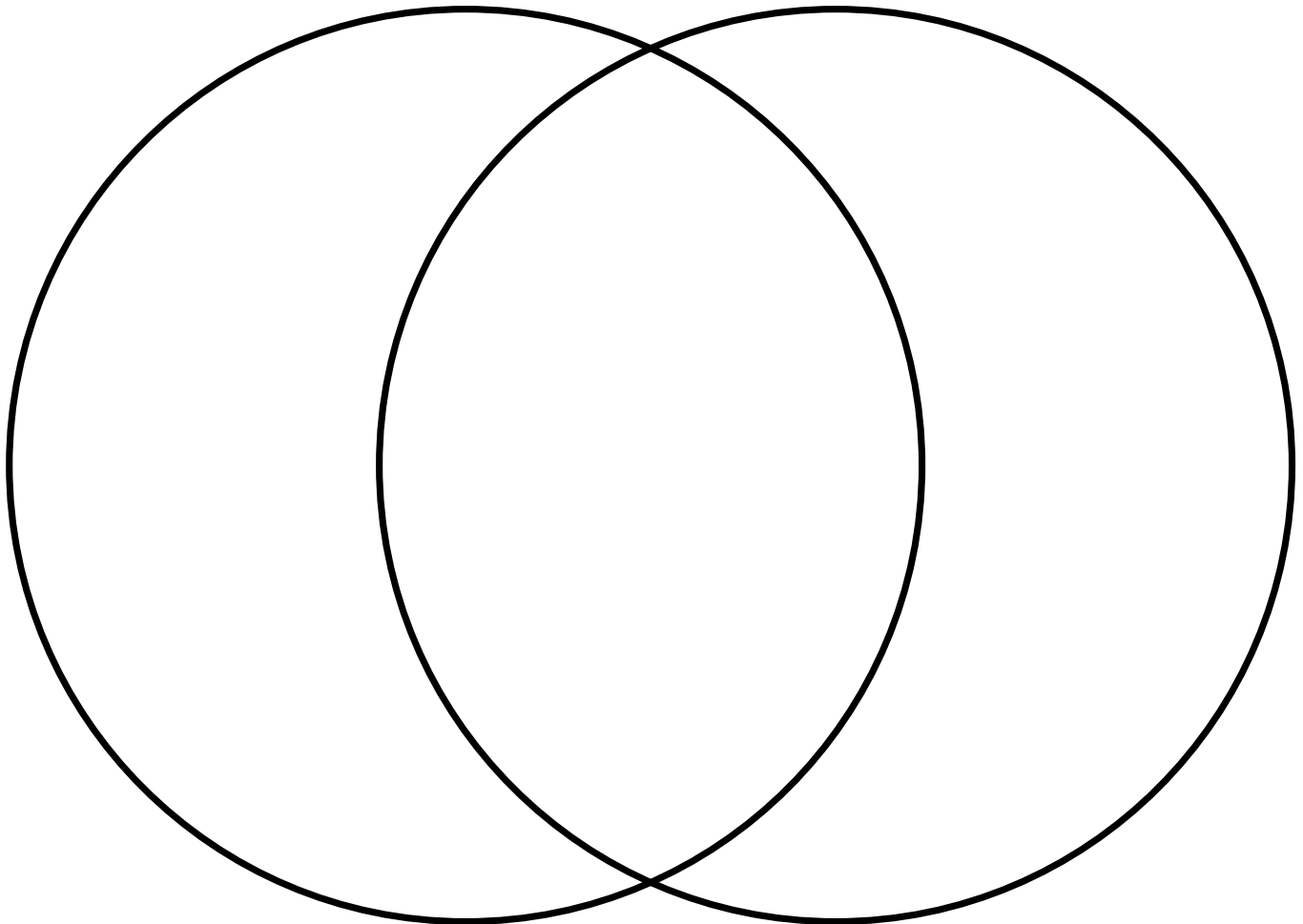
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH CARMELA?

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



FURTHER EXPLORATION

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=kUwNc8y1pqQ> - Excerpt from Penguin School and Library Marketing Department and Ro Menéndez, teacher-librarian



RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND FAMILIES

Empathy-based toolkit for teachers about family separation: <https://medium.com/age-of-awareness/teaching-about-immigration-asylum-and-family-separation-at-the-us-mexico-border-a-toolkit-for-da4300e1716b>

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/>

A toolkit for undocumented students: <https://www.csba.org/en/GovernanceAndPolicyResources/ConditionsOfChildren/SpecificStudentPopulationEquity/ImmigrationStatus/UndocumentedStudentsToolkit/EducatorsAndAdministrators>

Activity book designed specifically for Latino families: <https://asistahelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Family-Forever-An-Activity-Book-for-Latino-Children-or-Caregiver.pdf>

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/>