

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: May
Theme: Immigration and Migration

Book Title: Mango, Abuela, and Me
By Meg Medina

Grade Level: K / 1st

Book Summary:

Mia's Abuela (Grandmother) has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. The night she arrives, Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela before they go to sleep and discovers that Abuela can't read the words inside. So while they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English ("dough. masa"), and Mia learns some Spanish too, but it's still hard for Abuela to learn the words she needs to tell Mia all her stories. 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.

Discussion Questions:

- Based on the title of the book and the cover image, what did you think the book might be about?
- Why does Abuela leave her home to come live with Mia and her family?
- Why do you think Mia feels shy toward her grandmother?
- How do you think Abuela feels when she can't read Mia's new book? How can you tell?
- What does Mia want to talk about with Abuela, but can't?
- What do you think Abuela may want to talk with Mia about?
- What was your favorite scene of the book and why?
- What did you notice in the book that showed aspects of the family's Latino/Hispanic culture?
- Have you ever had an experience where it was difficult to communicate with someone because you didn't know their language and/or they didn't know your language?
- Did you learn any new Spanish words when reading this book?
- What does Mia mean when she says "with our mouths as empty as our bread baskets" after feeling the birds?
- What happened in the past with Mia's friend Kim that Mia's mother reminded her about?
- How do Mia and Abuela teach each other English and Spanish?
- Why does Mia want to buy the parrot? Why did Abuela and Mia name their new parrot Mango?
- What do Mia and Abuela discover about Mango the parrot that helps them communicate?
- What happens with Abuela when she learns more English?
- What kinds of things do Mia and Abuela talk about when each learns more of each other's language?
- What do you think was the message of the book?