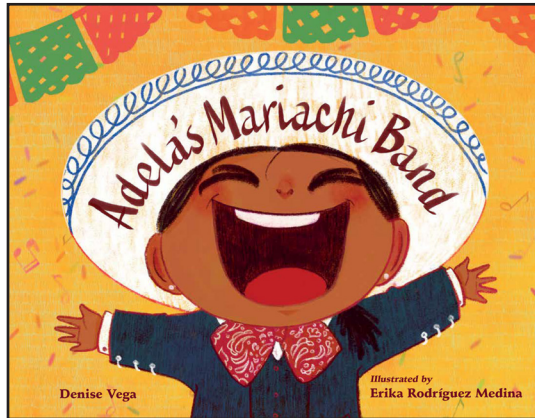


Adela's Mariachi Band

ACTIVITY KIT

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978-1-62354-444-7 HC
by Denise Vega, illustrated by Erika Rodríguez Medina
Spanish edition available

About the Book

Adela wants nothing more than to be a part of her family's mariachi band, but when she tries the different instruments, everything comes out wrong. La trompeta fizzes, la vihuela squeaks, and trying to dance makes Adela fall on her face. From watching her family, Adela knows that practice makes perfect, but can she find a way to be part of the band in the meantime?

A new go-to read-aloud favorite complete with funny instrument sounds, a rhythmic text, and Spanish vocabulary. Strike up the band!

About the Author

Denise Vega wrote and illustrated her first book, *The Laziness of Peter Rabbit*, when she was around twelve years old. Teachers were a huge influence on Denise and encouraged her pursuit of writing. Today she pulls inspiration from everywhere, from her nieces and nephews to the mountains and streams that grace the view from her home.

About the Illustrator

Erika Medina is a Mexican art teacher and illustrator. She is the illustrator of *There Goes Patti McGee!* and *Margot and the Moon Landing*. Erika works with both traditional and digital media, and loves to illustrate expressive characters, grumpy children, and subjects related to plants and nature. She lives and works in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Discussion Questions

Use these conversation starters to get kids thinking and learning.

Pre-reading

1. After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title, ask kids what they think *Adela's Mariachi Band* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
2. What is a mariachi? Are the kids familiar with mariachi music? Listen to a couple of mariachi songs together and invite them to share their thoughts. How does mariachi music make them feel? Why? What are some of the sounds and rhythms they hear? See the resources in the back of the book for more information about mariachi music.
3. The character on the cover of this book is wearing a special hat and jacket. Do the kids recognize this clothing? Why do they think the character is wearing this clothing?
4. What is a family band? Can the kids name examples of famous family bands?

Post-reading

1. Revisit the predictions kids made before reading. What predictions (if any) were correct? Did *Adela's Mariachi Band* surprise them?
2. Go over the Spanish words found in the text together. Can the kids figure out the meaning of each Spanish word based on the English text and the illustrations? If there are words they still don't understand, where could they go to find out?
3. What are the members of the band wearing for their performances? Why do the kids think they wear these clothes? Why do they think the dancers and the musicians are dressed differently? Have they ever been in a group where they all had to dress alike (like a choir, volunteer group, or sports team)?
4. Adela's mamá and sisters dance ballet folklórico, a style of traditional dancing from Mexico. Is this a style the kids are familiar with? Look at the illustrations and reread the descriptions of the dancers, and invite the kids to make predictions about what the dance is like. Then look up some videos of ballet folklórico dancers and discuss: Were their predictions accurate? How is it like or unlike other dances the kids know?
5. How does Adela feel about not being in her family's band? Have the kids ever felt left out of something? How did that feel?

Discussion Questions

Use these conversation starters to get kids thinking and learning.

6. How does Adela react when she tries and fails to play the instruments and dance? Do any of the kids play an instrument? What was it like when they were first starting? How did they get better?
7. What is a grito? Listen to some examples together and discuss. How is a grito like or unlike other sounds (a shout, a cheer, a chant, a "yeehaw" or whoop, etc.)? What kind of feelings does a grito express? Why do the kids think Adela uses the same sounds of Tía Evelyn's grito to express her disappointment?
8. Does Adela quit? She may give up on certain instruments or dances, but does she ultimately give up her goal of joining the band? Encourage the kids to discuss the concept of quitting: Is it always a bad thing to quit? Are there times when quitting one thing may be necessary to try a different way to get to your goal? When might quitting a goal entirely be necessary to pursue a different goal?
9. How does Adela's family support her in her goal of joining the band? How do people in the kids' lives support them when they are working toward a goal?



Word Search: English

Name: _____

Date: _____

E	T	A	O	C	I	N	B
S	W	I	R	L	S	H	R
P	S	W	E	E	T	D	I
R	T	S	H	A	R	P	G
I	R	M	W	R	U	L	H
N	O	H	L	R	I	W	T
G	N	P	B	A	T	E	G
Y	G	M	U	S	I	C	N

BRIGHT
CLEAR
MUSIC

SHARP
SPRINGY
STRONG

SWEET
SWIRL
TWIRL

Word Search: Spanish

Name: _____

Date: _____

E	H	M	B	R	D	V	T
T	R	A	A	N	L	A	R
A	G	R	I	T	O	S	O
O	D	I	L	E	H	F	M
S	L	A	E	I	C	D	P
N	U	C	V	L	P	H	E
V	I	H	U	E	L	A	T
S	M	I	G	B	L	M	A

BAILE

TROMPETA

GRITOS

VIHUELA

MARIACHI

My Family Band

Name: _____

Date: _____

Draw your family below as if you are all in a band.
Don't forget to write everyone's names and instruments underneath!

Adela's Mariachi Band
ACTIVITY KIT

Coloring Page

Name: _____

Date: _____

