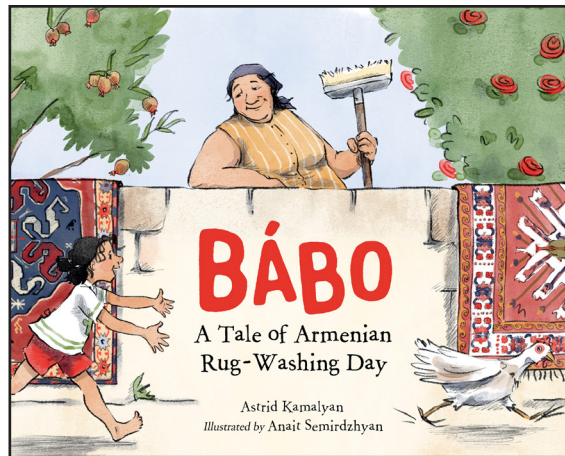


# BÁBO

## ACTIVITY KIT

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Astrid Kamalyan  
Illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan  
978-1-62354-358-7 HC  
e-book available

### About the Book

Little Tato sneaks a few cherry plums before racing off to help Bábo—her grandmother—with a favorite chore. Each year Tato looks forward to washing the family rugs. With bubbles and suds floating like clouds and snowflakes, Tato, her siblings, and a friend help Bábo scrub the rugs clean.

With lively text and vivid illustrations, Astrid Kamalyan brings her charming childhood memories to life by inviting young readers to spend a day full of fun and love with an Armenian family.

### About the Author

Astrid Kamalyan comes from a big, happy family and is the oldest of five. She spent most of her childhood in Armenia. As a child, she wished she could one day paint the beautiful mountains of Artsakh. Now she paints with words and writes for the most important people in the world—kids. Astrid holds an MBA degree from the American University of Armenia. She currently shares her time between Chicago and Yerevan, Armenia.

### About the Illustrator

Anait Semirdzhyan is an illustrator with a passion for children's books. She grew up in a multicultural family and has lived in several countries with diverse cultures. Now she lives in the Seattle area with her husband and twin daughters. Anait enjoys afternoon walks with her four-legged shaggy friend.



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## Activity Kit

## Before Reading

Pre-reading concept reviews help enrich students' learning experience!

### For younger students (K-2nd):

- After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title, ask students what they think *Bábo* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Explain what a rug is. Talk about the difference between a rug and similar things like a picnic blanket, a carpeted room, or a play mat. Ask students to share about the rugs in their lives—in the classroom, at home, or at other locations like the doctor's office or a daycare playroom.
- Show students some pictures of Armenian rugs and ask them: What do they see? Invite them to share observations about colors, shapes, and patterns.
- *Bábo* includes words in the Artsakh dialect of Armenian. In fact, the title itself is Armenian! Ask students if they know a language other than English or if their family uses names in other languages for their relatives.

### For older students (3rd and up):

- Based on the title and cover, ask students to describe what they think the book is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Have students discuss the following questions in small groups. Tape the questions to a wall and ask students to tape their answers beneath the questions.
  - What makes an Armenian rug different from other kinds of rugs?
  - What are some big seasonal chores that your family does?
  - Are you close to an older relative, like a grandfather or great-aunt? What do you do together?
- Show students some pictures of Armenian rugs and ask them: What do they see? Invite them to share observations about colors, shapes, and patterns. Watch a documentary section from CNN about Armenian carpet-making together ("The Silk Road: Past, Present, Future" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FE2JKOh29c>) and ask students to share their reactions aloud or by writing in their journals. What surprised or interested them most about this video? What new questions do they have about Armenian rugs now?
- What do students know about Armenia? Locate it on a map together and talk about the region and Armenia's neighbors. Invite students to write down three questions they have about Armenia.
- *Bábo* includes words in the Artsakh dialect of Armenian. Invite students to pay particular attention when Armenian words appear in the story and talk about how they could figure out what the words mean without looking them up.

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## Activity Kit

## After Reading

Post-reading discussion can help students develop greater understanding and connect them to curriculum activities.

### For younger students (K-2nd):

- Revisit student predictions from the pre-reading discussion. What predictions were correct? Did *Bábo* surprise them?
- Talk about the use of the Armenian language in *Bábo*. What did students notice about the sounds of the Armenian words? Were there any words they could figure out? Go to the glossary in the back and show students how you use it to find the meanings of the Armenian words.
- *Bábo* is a story about a chore. What are some chores that students do? How are they like or unlike rug-washing? Do students have a favorite chore?

### For older students (3rd and up):

- Revisit student predictions from the pre-reading discussion. What predictions were correct?
- Take a second look at student responses to the pre-reading discussion questions:
  - What makes an Armenian rug different from other kinds of rugs?
  - What are some big seasonal chores that your family does?
  - Are you close to an older relative, like a grandfather or great-aunt? What do you do together?Talk as a class about how these questions are connected to the story.
- Revisit the pre-reading discussion about students' knowledge of Armenia. Read the back matter together and talk about what students have learned about this country. Are some of their pre-reading questions about Armenia still unanswered? Dedicate some library time to allow students to look up answers to their questions.
- Ask if students figured out the Armenian words as they read and go back over the vocabulary as a class. Then show students the glossary at the back to fill in any gaps in understanding.

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## Activity Kit

### Language Arts: Summer Snacks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tato loves dried cherry plums and apricot pie.  
Fill in the blanks below to write about your  
favorite summer treats!

In the summer, I like to eat \_\_\_\_\_.

It tastes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

It smells \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

It looks \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

I eat this treat with someone special: \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Activity Kit

### SEL: My Helpers

Tato has a lot of helpers on rug-washing day!  
In the bubbles below, write the names or draw pictures of people who help you. You can use the same helper for more than one bubble.

When I'm doing chores:

When I'm doing homework:

When I'm sick:

When I'm lonely:

When I'm confused:

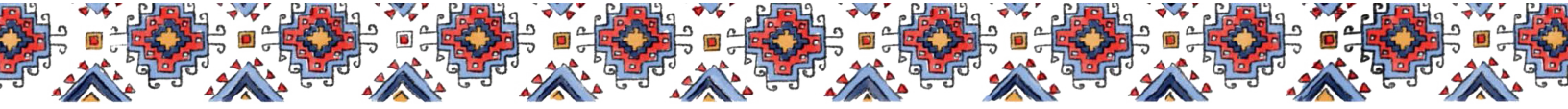
When I'm angry:

# BÁBO

## Activity Kit

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Talk with your grown-ups about how you can help around the house. Use the chore chart below to keep track of how you help!



# MY CHORE CHART

SUNDAY	
MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	



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## Activity Kit

### Word Search

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

É N T S A H O R I  
B U B B L E S D R  
K T K Á M A T S O  
H F C B M V D K O  
Ó S L O G R M P S  
K I W Á U K Ó H T  
H L N B R S B L E  
A K L O O W G T R  
N D R A G O N S P

BÁBO

BUBBLES

RUG

KHÓKHAN

KÁMATS

ROOSTER

WOOL

SILK

DRAGON

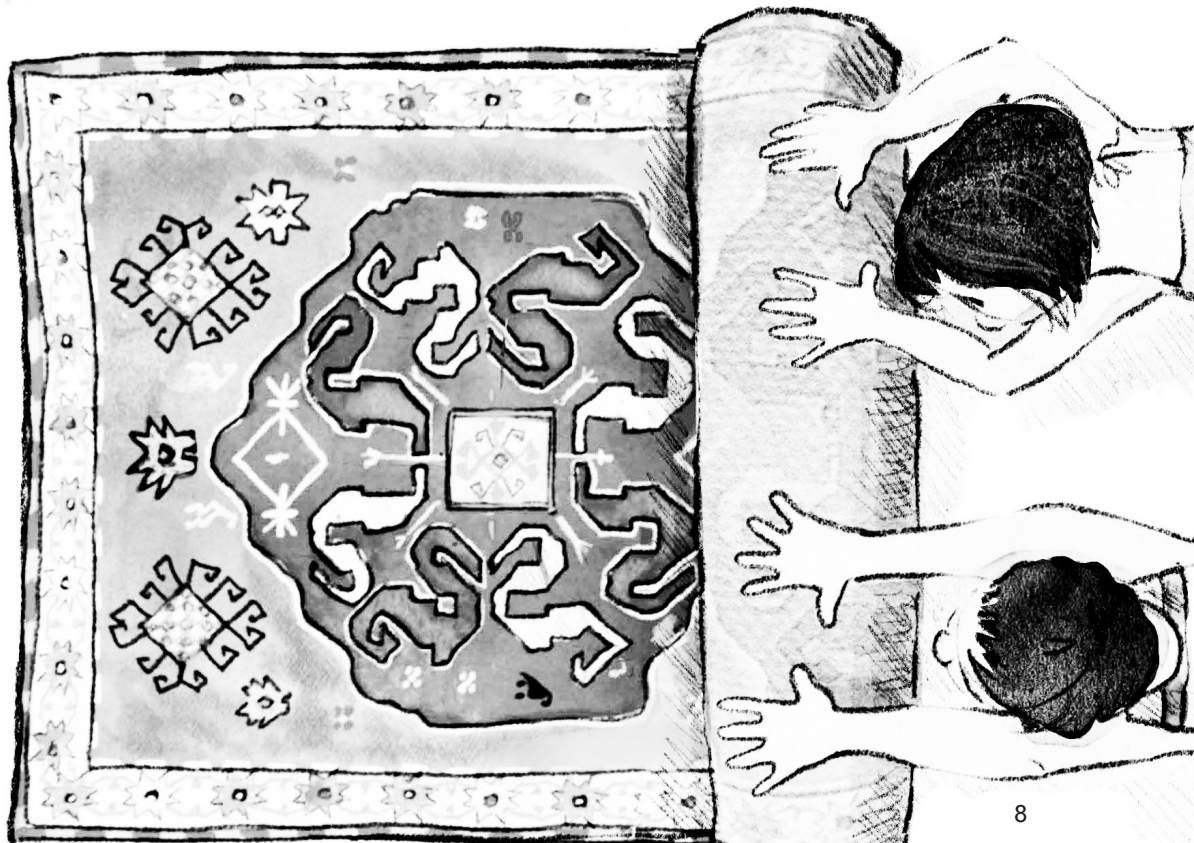
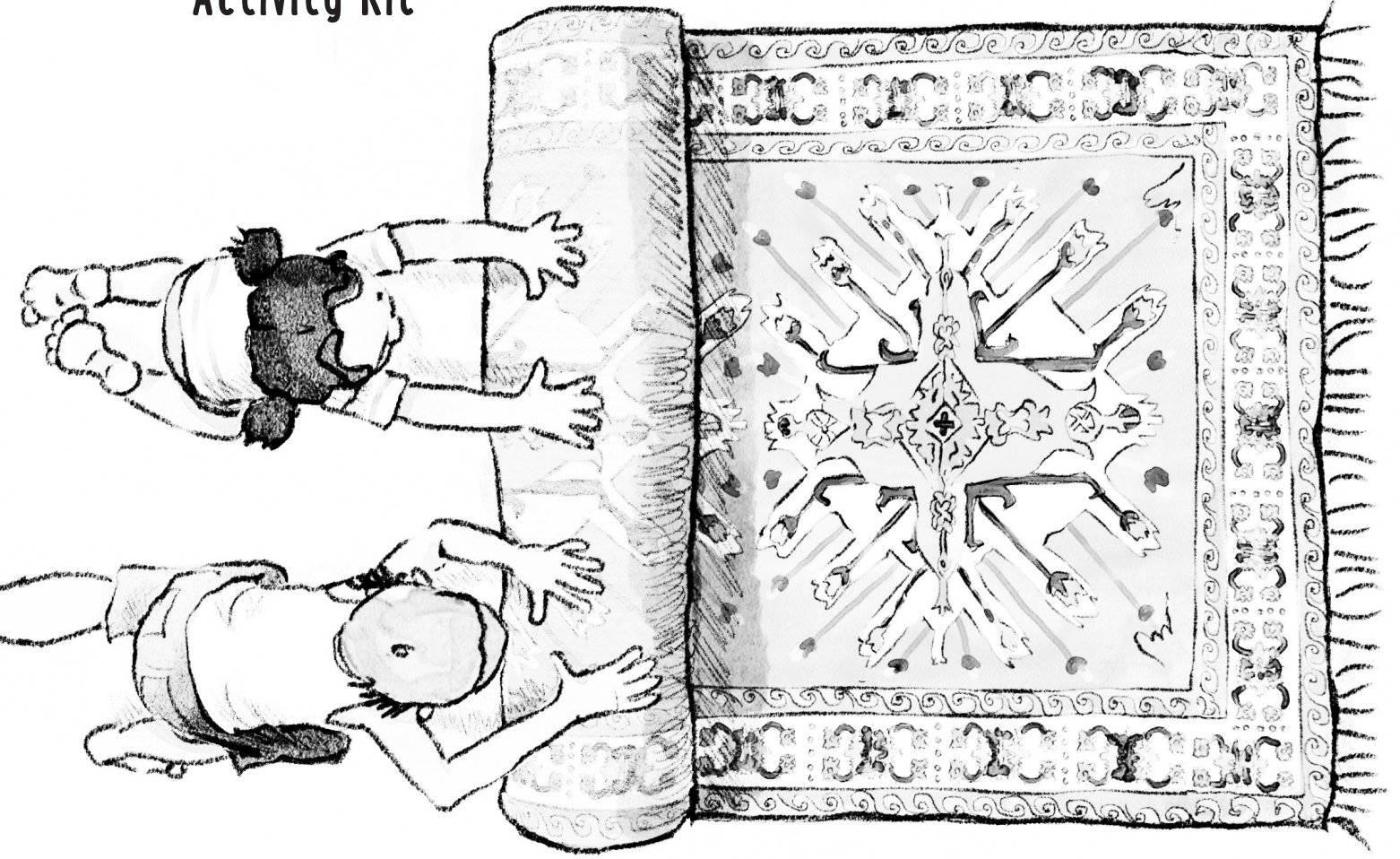
# BÁBO

## Activity Kit

### Coloring Page

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# BÁBO

## Activity Kit

## More Resources

Pair *Bábo* with the books and resources below for an enriched learning experience! Recommended activities will pair especially well with the themes and concepts in *Bábo*, but we encourage you to explore all the activities on offer.

### Paired Reading

Fradkina, Katia, and Katia Anikina. *My Armenia*. My Roots Books. [www.myrootsbooks.store](http://www.myrootsbooks.store)

Markarian, Marianne, and Margaret Markarian Wasielewski. *The Pesky Bird*. Portland, OR: Pomegranate Publishing, 2005.

Markarian, Marianne, and Margaret Markarian Wasielewski. *Mariam's Easter Parade*. Portland, OR: Pomegranate Publishing, 2015.

### The Armenian Museum of America

[www.armenianmuseum.org](http://www.armenianmuseum.org)

Recommended:

["Treasures from Our Collection"](#)

### The Armenian Cultural Foundation

[www.armenianculturalfoundation.net](http://www.armenianculturalfoundation.net)

### The Armenian American Museum

[www.armenianamericanmuseum.org/](http://www.armenianamericanmuseum.org/)