

# SQUAWK of SPANISH ACTIVITY KIT

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**"A tenderly triumphant tale of overcoming language barriers."**

—Kirkus Reviews



978-1-62354-392-1 HC  
by Gabriella Aldeman  
illustrated by Romina Galotta  
Spanish edition available

## About the Book

Max isn't confident with his Spanish, especially rolling his Rs, and his cousins always tease him about it. But he loves spending weekends baking with his Spanish-speaking abuela, while Lorito the parrot helps translate.

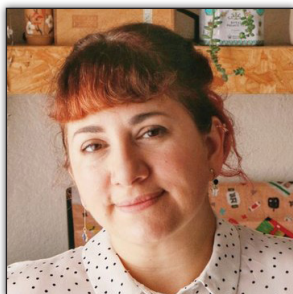
But when Lorito disappears for a day, Max and Abuela must figure out how to communicate. Max's Spanish doesn't have to be perfect, and Abuela can attempt a little English. Trying is what counts!

## About the Author

Gabriella Aldeman works with education nonprofits and children's book authors and publishers to translate English content into Spanish. She has a mission to make educational content accessible to Spanish-speaking families and to engage readers with rhymes, alliterations, and worlds of wonder. She also writes for young people. She is the author of the picture book *Paula's Patches*.

## About the Illustrator

Romina Galotta is an Argentinian author/illustrator, animal lover, passionate foodie, and forever traveler. She has a degree in graphic design from the University of Buenos Aires. Her other talents include bird rescuing, tattooing, pizza making, and knitting cozy sweaters. She lives with her husband and dogs in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



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## 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 *Squawk of Spanish* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
2. Where do kids encounter Spanish in their lives? What are some differences between Spanish and English? What are some similarities?
3. The characters on the cover of this book are baking. Do kids help in the kitchen? What kind of kitchen tasks do they do? Are they familiar with the difference between baking and cooking?
4. Why is there a bird on the cover of this book? Gather predictions from the kids. Have they read books with animal characters? What kinds of animals are usually in books? Have they noticed a difference between animal characters who speak and wear clothes, and animal characters who act like real-life animals? Which kind of animal character do they think this bird is?

### Post-reading

1. Revisit the predictions kids made before reading. What predictions (if any) were correct? Did *Squawk of Spanish* surprise them?
2. Max's family is bilingual. What does "bilingual" mean? Do kids speak more than one language? What does their family's language mean to them?
3. Max and his Abuela have a language barrier; she prefers to speak in Spanish and he prefers to speak in English. Have students encountered a language barrier, in their own family or elsewhere? What are some ways to communicate without speaking the same language?
4. Why do Max's cousins tease him? Have students been teased by family members about something? How did that make them feel? What are some strategies they can use when someone is teasing them and they want them to stop?
5. What role does baking play in Max's relationship with his abuela? Do kids bake with a family member? What are some feelings and memories they associate with baking?

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## Discussion Questions

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6. Lorito helps Abuela remember the recipes. Have students followed a recipe before? Where does their family keep or find recipes?
7. Have kids had polvorones, cocadas, or arroz con leche? What do these delicious treats taste like? What culture(s) do they come from? What are their family's favorite treats to make and eat?
8. Do kids know someone who has a pet parrot? Why are parrots an unusual pet in the US? What role do pets play in their life or their family's life?
9. Why does Max keep trying to speak Spanish? Have students kept trying at something difficult? What motivated them to keep trying?
10. Is there an elder in kids' life who they're close with, like Max is close with his Abuela? What do they do together? How is that relationship different from relationships with younger grown-ups or peers?



# SQUAWK of SPANISH ACTIVITY KIT

## Lorito's Arroz con Leche

Whip up a delicious treat with help from a grown-up!



### Ingredients

- ½ cup cooked white rice
- 6 tablespoons of milk (or nondairy alternative)
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 tablespoons of sweetened condensed milk (or coconut cream for nondairy option)
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- pinch of ground nutmeg
- toppings such as nuts, sprinkles, chocolate chips (optional)
- banana slice, raisin, and strawberry (optional to make Lorito's face)

### Directions

Always get an adult to help. Be careful when removing the hot bowl from the microwave.

1. Stir together the cooked rice, milk, and vanilla in a microwave-safe bowl. Stir in the sweetened condensed milk.
2. Heat in the microwave for a minute and a half (90 seconds).
3. Take out the bowl and stir again.
4. Microwave for thirty more seconds.
5. Repeat two or three times, stirring every thirty seconds. The arroz con leche is ready when the rice is soft and the mixture is thick and creamy.
6. Stir in the cinnamon and nutmeg. Top with nuts, sprinkles, chocolate chips, or anything you like.

Optional: To make Lorito's face, use a banana slice for his head, place a raisin on top for his eye, and cut a triangle-shaped strawberry for his beak.

### Squawk! Enjoy!



SQUAWK  
of  
SPANISH  
ACTIVITY KIT

Word Search: English

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

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

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

RICE

EATING

COUSINS

MILK

PARROT

GRANDMA

SUGAR

WORDS

LOVE

SQUAWK  
of  
SPANISH  
ACTIVITY KIT

Word Search: Spanish

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

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

P T P R I M O S  
A B U E L A Ó H  
L S M E H C E L  
A Z Ú C A R A O  
B A D O Í C R R  
R M Ú M A B R I  
A O T E L N O T  
S R P R O S Z O

ARROZ

COMER

PRIMOS

LECHE

LORITO

ABUELA

AZÚCAR

PALABRAS

AMOR

SQUAWK  
of  
SPANISH  
ACTIVITY KIT

Maze

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

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

Help Lorito find Abuela and Max!

