

Liliana's Grandmothers
Teaching Guide and Activities for before and after reading the book
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Liliana's Grandmothers compares the different lifestyles and activities a girl can share with her two grandmothers. One of them lives in New England and the other in South America.

BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Building Background

Encourage children to talk about their own grandparents or other older friends they might have, and the activities the children might share with them.

- * When do you see your grandparents?
- * Do you ever visit them by yourself? What do you do when you visit them?
- * What kind of food do you eat when you visit them?
- * Do they have any pets?

Relate to the Story

Invite children to observe the book cover. Go briefly through the illustrations inside.

- * What is this girl doing?
- * Who do you think the ladies in the pictures are?
- * Where do you think the girl is?
- * What do you think we will find out about her?
- * Who do you think these objects belong to?

Write the children's answers on the chalkboard, and read aloud the title of the book and the name of the author.

DURING THE READING

Read aloud and show children the illustrations as you finish reading each page. After you have read a few pages ask some questions.

Pages 5-11

- * How are the towns where Liliana's grandmothers live similar or different?
- * What does Liliana do in the morning with each grandmother?

Pages 12-17

- * What is different between gardening and quilting? What is similar?
- * What meal do you think Liliana prefers?

Pages 18-32

- * What similar things do the two grandmothers like to do?
- * What different things do the two grandmothers like to do?
- * Besides Liliana, there is one character that we see in every page, who is he?
- * Can you describe Roberto, the parrot?
- * Can you describe Suzzy, the cat?

- * Where is Liliana at the end of the story?

AFTER READING

Refer to the predictions that the children made for the story and ask them which ones were true. Invite them to share their own opinions about the story.

- * What did you enjoy most about the story? Why?
- * Liliana spends time with her grandmothers and does different things with them. Of all those activities what would you enjoy doing?
- * Do you prefer either one of her grandmothers' pets? Why?

Share Book Secrets

Explain to the children that some times illustrators place little secrets within the pictures of a book. Challenge them to find the following items:

- * A little white sheep with black head and black legs. This sheep appears in all the books that Leyla Torres has both written and illustrated.
- * A kite with the colors of the flag of Leyla Torres' country of origin, Colombia.
- * A little parakeet which used to be the author's pet "Birdy".
- * A picture of the author. Hint: she wears blue pants, white shirt, has a braid, and you see from her back .

Repeated Reading

- * You might want to have children work in pairs to read the book again. One child can read what Liliana does with Mima and other child what she does with Mama Gabina.
- * Have children go over the illustrations and narrate the story from the point of view of the teddy bear.

Writing Activities

The story describes what a child does in the morning, in the afternoon and at night with each one of her grandmothers.

- * Help children complete the following chart

	At Mima's	At Mama Gabina's
Morning		
Afternoon		
Night		

- * Invite children to create a book where they illustrate and write what they might do in a day at a family member's home.

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

Math and Arts

* Shapes: look through the illustrations to find different geometric shapes (Dots, circles, triangles, squares, ovals, vertical lines, horizontal lines, and curved lines.)

Social Studies

- * Locate in the map countries where English and Spanish are spoken.
- * Read stories on quilt making.

Science

- * Cats: Study different kinds of cats and their habitats.
- * Parrots: Study different kinds of parrots and their habitats.
- * Gardening: What can be grown in a garden.

Arts

* In Lilia's Grandmothers there are several illustrations that show windows and what can be seen through them. Sometimes Lilia can be seen with one of her grandmothers, other times you just see the outside. If possible, let children observe a window from the inside and from the outside. Invite children to make a drawing of that window and what can be seen from both sides.