

Starring **CARMEN!**

Activity Guide

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Table of Contents

About the Book.....	3
About the Author.....	3
About the Illustrator.....	3
Discussion Prompts.....	4
Fish Puppet Craft.....	5
Tiger Ear Costume.....	6
Rose Bush Costume.....	7
Literary Design.....	8
Curriculum Connections.....	9
Vocabulary.....	10



About the Book:

Meet Carmen! She LOVES the spotlight and applause. She's an actress, a singer, a dancer—a one-girl *sensación*! She exhausts her parents with her nightly performances and completely overshadows Eduardo, her adoring little brother. But when Eduardo shows his big sister how much he loves her in a way even Carmen can't ignore, will Carmen realize that the stage is big enough for two?

About the Author:

Anika Denise is the celebrated author of five picture books, including *Starring Carmen*, *Monster Trucks*, *Baking Day at Grandma's* and *Bella and Stella Come Home*. In March of 2019, to coincide with Women's History Month, HarperCollins Children's Books will publish her forthcoming picture book, *Pura Belpré Planting Stories*—a biography of pioneering Puerto Rican librarian, author and storyteller Pura Belpré. Anika lives in Rhode Island with her family. Learn more about her books at www.anikadenise.com.



About the Illustrator:

Lorena Alvarez Gómez is a freelance illustrator from Bogotá, Colombia. She has created illustrations for children's books, independent publications, and magazines. Her work reflects her interest in color language and diverse techniques and concepts.

Discussion Prompts:

La Familia!

Carmen comes from a multicultural family. Though Carmen's family lives in the United States they have Latin American roots. How can we tell? They speak two languages: English and Spanish! Every family has a culture and some like Carmen's family, have more than one. What's your family's culture? (Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Puerto Rican, American) What are some ways your family practices their culture? (Special foods, music, language, holidays)

Showtime!

Carmen is a one-girl *sensación!* She writes the scripts. She builds the sets and the costumes and of course she performs. To put on professional shows takes a lot of people: writers, musicians, costume designers, painters, carpenters, electricians, actors, singers, dancers...Wow! That's a lot of people! And everyone has an important role. Think about what you love to do or what you're really good at. There's probably a job at the theatre for you. Maybe you like helping people, you could be an usher and help audience members, or a costumer and help the actors get ready. Maybe you like science, you could work with Special Effects figuring out how to make it rain or snow inside the theatre! If your group of friends/class was putting on a show what job would you have? What special talents /interest do you have that would make you a *sensación* at that job?

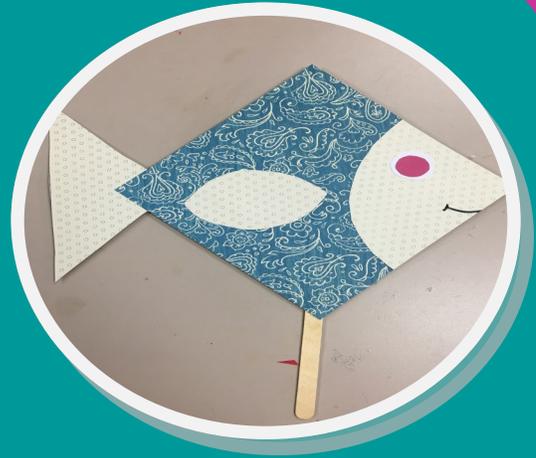
Wonder Bread

Almost every one in the world enjoys some kind of bread. There are lots of different types of bread. How many different types of bread can you think of? Bagels, dinner rolls, biscuits, cornbread, steamed buns, cookies, naan, challah, crackers, scones, muffins, sourdough, pita, tortillas, matzo, cake.... and even these have different flavors, shapes, purposes. Some breads are good for sandwiches and others are not. Some are sweet, some are salty, some are round, some are flat. Every cultural group has different foods that they eat based on where they are in the world and what foods are around them. It's these differences that make the world an interesting and fun place.

Fish Puppet

Materials

- ★ Construction/Scrapbooking Paper (6x6 squares)
- ★ Glue Stick
- ★ Scissor
- ★ Pencil
- ★ Popsicle Stick



Carmen loves to make props including all kinds of puppets.

A puppet is an object used for storytelling that needs a person to help it move. The person that works the puppet is called a puppeteer.

There are many types of puppets and many different ways to make puppets.

This puppet is made by collage. Collage is an art technique where you cut out different shapes and glue them together to create a picture.

To create a fish puppet, you need some key fishy parts: Head, Body, Gills, Fin, Tail, Eye, Mouth!



USING TEMPLATE:

Choose two 6x6 squares of different colors or patterns

Decide which will be the body.

Turn the other square over and use the template to draw head, fin and tail.

Cut out fish parts.

Glue the parts onto the body of the fish (patterned side up)

Use scrapes to create an eye and draw on a mouth.

IF NOT USING THE TEMPLATE:

Choose a square to be the body of fish.

Use other squares to create the parts of the fish – head, fin, tail, eye & mouth.

Glue pieces together.

Glue fish on to a popsicle stick to create a handle for your puppet

Tiger Ear Craft

Carmen puts on shows all by herself. She does ALL of the work. One of the jobs that Carmen has to do is creating costumes for her show.

A Costume Designer is a person that thinks up and then makes all the clothing that actors wear on stage, in movies or on television.



Materials

Orange Construction Paper

Brown Construction Paper

Black Marker

Scissor

Glue stick

Pipe cleaners

Use the pipe cleaners to make a crown by twisting them together end to end and then attaching the ends together to make a circle. (Adjust for size)

Fold orange construction paper in half (Hamburger fold)

Draw two ears along the fold.

Use black marker to draw tiger stripes on both sides of the ears.

Fold brown construction paper in half (hotdog fold)

Draw one small ear along the fold.

Cut out ears. Cut the small brown ear along the fold so you have two halves.

Glue the small brown halves on to the fronts of each ear.

Wrap the ears around the pipe cleaner crown, so that the pipe cleaner sits in the fold.

Glue to secure.

Costume Design

Carmen loves to design her own costumes. Sometimes in her shows, Carmen is a Pirate or a mermaid or even a tree or a flower!

A costume designer's job is to find a way for an actor to be a character and still be able to move, sing and dance.

Materials:

- Construction Paper
- Tissue Paper (at least 2 colors)
- Glue Stick
- Scissor
- Yarn
- Hole-punch
- Pencil



On the construction paper draw out 5 large leaves. A template is included but not necessary.

Fold tissue paper so that it has at least 5 layers.

Draw a teardrop shape on the tissue paper. A template is included but not needed.

Fold another color tissue paper so that it has 5 layers.

Draw a circle on the second tissue paper color.

Cut out all the shapes. Hold the tissue paper securely so you only have to cut once.

Glue a teardrop onto each leaf (or maybe two or three! Be creative)

Glue a dot onto each leaf.

Use the hole-punch (or pencil) to put two or three holes along the top (flat) side of each leaf.

Carefully thread the yarn through the holes to make a skirt. Tie off.

Literary Design

Carmen loves to write shows that she can perform for her family.

Every show starts out as a simple idea. Help Carmen come up with an idea for her next show by creating a character that she could play. Is she a cowgirl who needs to find a new shoe for her horse? Or maybe she's a mermaid looking for a lost pearl? Or even an astronaut searching for aliens in space!

Write a sentence that tells Carmen who she is and what problem she must face!

Draw a costume that Carmen might wear while playing this character and color it in!



Classroom Connections

Use the *La Familia* discussion prompt to springboard into Multiculturalism Activities like Around the World Coloring Sheets or lessons on Ellis Island.

The *Fish Puppet* is a great way to teach science concepts like adaptations and camouflage!

Fish aren't the only animals that use camouflage! Talk about *Tigers* while crafting!

Get your class working together by putting on a skit!
Showtime!

Why do some plants have flowers? The *Rose Bush Costume* can help reinforce or introduce Roots, Stems, Flowers & Leaves!

Learn about the parts of the fish and what each part does while making the *Fish Puppet*.

Students can experience what a *Wonder Bread* really is by using their senses and observational skills! Taste the diversity by bringing in the different types of bread you discuss!

Vocabulary

ENGLISH

Device: an object or machine that has been made for some special purpose

Puppet: a doll that is moved by putting your hand inside it or by pulling strings that are attached to it

Elaborate: made or done with great care or with much detail

Vocal: made by the voice

Sulking: to be angry or upset about something and to refuse to discuss it with other people

Diversity: having many different forms, types, or ideas

Multicultural: including many different cultures

SPANISH

Sensación: Sensation

Espectacular: Spectacular

Hermanito: Little Brother

A dormir: Go to bed

THEATRE

Rehearsal: practicing an activity (singing, dancing, or acting) in order to prepare for a public performance

Plot: a series of events that form a story

Encore: an extra piece performed after the show is over

Audience: the people who attend a performance

Applause: clapping to show of approval or appreciation at a play, speech, sporting event

Director: a person who directs a play or movie

Costume: the clothes that are worn by someone (such as an actor) who is trying to look like a different person or thing