

## STORIES TO CELEBRATE

### Celebrate Christmas and Three Kings Day with Pablo and Carlitos

#### Creative Reading Methodology

##### Questions to Initiate Dialogue

The purpose of these questions is to invite the students to reflect on the book and relate it to their own lives and their future actions. The questions do not have one specific answer, but rather should serve as the starting point for an ongoing dialogue. It is important, however, that at some point *all questions* be posed to the group and to individual students.

#### BEGINNING LEVEL

##### Descriptive Phase

*Questions to ascertain comprehension of the story and its concepts*

- To whom did Carlitos write letters?
- Why did Carlitos change his letter so many times?
- Why did Carlitos think that his brother Pablo was very good?
- When is Three Kings Day?

##### Personal/Interpretive Phase

*Questions to invite sharing of personal experiences, feelings, and emotions*

- Does your family celebrate Christmas? Other holidays? Do they use special decorations?
- Have you ever seen a Three Kings Day parade? Live? In the movies? On television?
- Have you ever seen a Nativity scene?
- Do you get presents on Christmas? Three Kings Day? Another time of the year?
- Of all the gifts you have received, which is the one you liked the most?

##### Critical/Multicultural/Anti-Bias Phase

*Questions to promote critical reflection and anti-bias awareness*

- Do you think it was good that Carlitos asked the Three Kings for a gift for his brother? Why?
- Do you think it was good that he carried a poster giving thanks to the parade? Why?

##### Creative/Transformative Phase

*Questions to promote attitudes for social change in support of equity, justice, and peace*

- There are many kinds of presents. Some are bought in stores and others are made at home or in class. The presents you make yourself, like a drawing, a card, or a poem, are very valuable because they are made with love. What gifts could you make yourself?
- There are also gifts that you can't touch or wrap, but that give us happiness, like visiting a friend, playing with others, or singing. What gifts like these can you give to a friend or a relative?

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

### **Descriptive Phase**

*Questions to ascertain comprehension of the story and its concepts*

- What is celebrated on Christmas? On Three Kings Day? Who celebrates these holidays?
- What are the names of the Three Kings? Where were they from? What animals did they ride?
- What are some ways to celebrate Christmas and Three Kings Day?

### **Personal/Interpretive Phase**

*Questions to invite sharing of personal experiences, feelings, and emotions*

- What's the most important holiday of the year for your family? How do you celebrate it?
- What do you like the most about the holidays you celebrate?
- Special foods are an important part of many celebrations. Does this happen in your family? Why do you think that is so?
- Have you ever seen a Three Kings Day parade? If so, what did you find to be interesting about it?

### **Critical/Multicultural/Anti-Bias Phase**

*Questions to promote critical reflection and anti-bias awareness*

- Holidays are often turned into occasions to buy things and spend money. Do you think that is the best way to celebrate? Why?
- What can bring the most happiness during a celebration?

### **Transformative/Creative Phase**

*Questions to promote attitudes for social change in support of equity, justice, and peace*

- Whom should you thank for giving you something, or for creating pleasant moments for you? How can you thank them?
- Write a letter to someone you think can give you what you ask for. It can be a relative, a teacher, or a friend. Think of something that you really want to have or something pleasant that you would like to happen. Then, write a letter to thank the person for giving it to you.

## ADVANCED LEVEL

### **Descriptive Phase**

*Questions to ascertain comprehension of the story and its concepts*

- Tell us about some Christmas traditions. Why are there so many different ways to celebrate Christmas?
- From where were the Three Kings? What do you think they represent?

### **Personal/Interpretive Phase**

*Questions to invite sharing of personal experiences, feelings, and emotions*

- Are presents an important part of the Christmas celebration, or other holidays, in your family? Why do you think people exchange gifts?
- What seems most important to you in celebrating Christmas or any other holiday that your family celebrates?

### **Critical/Multicultural/Anti-Bias Phase**

*Questions to promote critical reflection and anti-bias awareness*

- Holidays are often turned into occasions to buy things and spend money. Do you think that is the best way to celebrate? Why?
- Think about everything that happens during a celebration: relatives and friends get together, there is music and food, games are played, other activities take place, and during all that time people interact. What is it that can bring the most happiness during a celebration?

### **Transformative/Creative Phase**

*Questions to promote attitudes for social change in support of equity, justice, and peace*

- Imagine that you could create a holiday. What would you celebrate? What would you do to make everyone, without exception, feel comfortable and happy?
- Make a poster giving thanks for something positive in your life.
- Write a letter thanking someone for a gift you have received.
- Write a list of presents that can't be bought in a store or wrapped in paper, that you could give to your loved ones.