

The Birthday Swap

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Latino Culture, Birthdays, Family Traditions

Grade Level: K to 3rd grade

Book Brief: Lori's looking for the perfect gift for her older sister, but Lori's the one who winds up with a birthday surprise!

Author & Illustrator:
Loretta Lopez



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make connections: Talk about how your family normally celebrates birthdays. How old will your child be this

year? Is there a special gift he or she wants?

While reading, look at the pictures. Notice the *mercado* (market) and other shops. Do your shopping trips look like this?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did Lori want to get Cookie a special gift?
- ◆ Why did Lori's brothers leave church early?
- ◆ How long do you think Lori's family had been planning the surprise?
- ◆ Does the time of year affect what you do for your birthday?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

TÍA SABINA'S BAKED CRISPS

Ingredients: 4 flour tortillas, spray vegetable oil, cinnamon sugar

Cut tortillas into triangles. Place on baking sheet. Spray lightly with oil. Bake at 400° for 5-8 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Let cool. Enjoy!

OUT AND ABOUT

Organize a book swap for the kids in your neighborhood. Set the date and time. Invite everyone to bring a book they have already enjoyed. Put the books out on a table and let everyone choose something new. Book swaps are a great way to get a new book—for free!

BIRTHDAY PIÑATA

Materials: balloon, newspaper, water, flour, paint, paint brushes, streamers, tissue paper

Day 1: Blow up balloon. Mix 1 part water and 2 parts flour; stir until it looks like thick glue. Dip strips of newspaper in mixture. Cover balloon with 2 layers of strips. Leave a hole at the top for candy. Let dry.

Day 2: Repeat process.

Day 3: Paint piñata bright colors. Add streamers. Pop balloon. Put candy inside piñata and cover hole with tissue paper. Hang it up and let kids take turns whacking it to get the candy out!



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Say Hola to Spanish (1998),
I Remember Abuelito (2007),
Celebrate! It's Cinco de Mayo! (2007).



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