

HOME Story Time Discussion | November 2020

Lynden Sculpture Garden

HOME program: www.home-at-lynden.org

Recordings and downloads: www.lyndensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time

Book, English & Spanish edition: La Frontera, My Journey with Papa, written by Deborah Mills and Alfredo Alva, illustrated by Claudia Navarro

HOME Story Time Readers: Jennifer Hron [English reader] and Claudia Orjuela [Spanish reader]

Art activity by Lynden art educator: Claudia Orjuela

Introduction

The book tells the true story of Alfredo's journey from La Ceja, Mexico to Texas, United States. Alfredo is a child who leaves his family and home behind to make the difficult journey to the U.S with his father when they can no longer make a living from the land.

Several years after their arrival, Alfredo and his father are able to apply for amnesty or forgiveness for crossing the border without proper documents and are reunited with their family.

Everyone who migrates or moves from one country to another has a unique story. Alfredo wanted to share his story because many children are experiencing similar journeys today, not just in Mexico or the United States, but all over the world.

Activity 1: Let's Share & Reflect! Questions for further discussion.

1. Looking at a map: Where did Alfredo's and Papa's journey begin? Where did it end? Did their journey end once they crossed the border between Mexico and the United States?
2. Did Alfredo and Papa travel alone? Did someone guide them through their journey?
3. Why did Papa decide to leave his home and family behind to come to the United States? What was he searching for moving to a different country?
4. Describe their trip. Was their journey risky and difficult or safe and joyful? What kinds of transportation did they use along the way? How did they cross the Rio Grande? Where did they sleep at night?
5. What and who did Alfredo miss from home?
6. How did Alfredo feel being new in school, not speaking English, and adapting to a new place? What helped Alfredo overcome these challenges?
7. Immigrants bring their culture when they move. Are there traditions, stories, food that your family brought with them to the United States? Ask a family member to share a tradition or story from their country of origin.
8. Alfredo's story has a happy ending. He was reunited with his family in Mexico and they all became American citizens. Is this true for all immigrant families who come to the United States without official documents? Why?

9. From the story identify the following:

- What is the **main** or central story being told?
- What's the **side** story or stories happening around the edges that may not necessarily involve the main characters?
- What's the **hidden** story? What is happening below the surface or that isn't directly stated or easily seen?