

Grandma Fina and Her Wonderful Umbrellas
(La Abuelita Fina y sus sombrillas maravillosas)

by
Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Illustrated by Geronimo Garcia

Summary

Grandma Fina takes great delight in the yellow umbrella that shades her from the sun. When her friends notice that it is worn, they present her with quite a surprise on her birthday!

Note: this is such a lovely story and has many repetitive lines. Children will naturally chime in with the reader the more they listen to the story.

Ideas for Family & Classroom Use

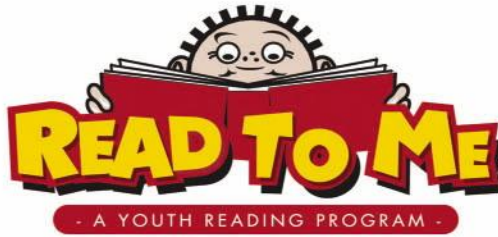
Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

Why did Grandma Fina love her yellow umbrella so much?

Did it bother Grandma Fina that her umbrella was worn? Why do you think it bothered all of her friends and family?

Do you know someone in your life that is always positive like Grandma Fina, someone who always brings joy to others? Who is that person and how do you think s/he remains so positive and cheerful all of the time?

How did Grandma Fina solve the problem of receiving so many umbrellas for her birthday? Did you expect this ending? What did you think she'd do with ten umbrellas?



Responding to the Story

Geography – your neighbors and family

People in your world

Grandma Fina goes for a walk and cheerfully greets everyone along the way – her neighbors, her children and grandchildren. Who are the people in your world that you greet every day? Make a list of all the people you regularly encounter each day.

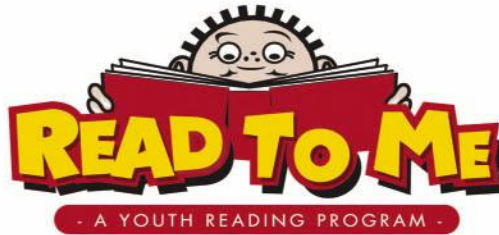
Remember that your very smile can brighten anyone's day. One day count how many smiles and happy greetings you share. Record that number. The next day, see if you can increase the number of greetings you share. If so, you'll be spreading joy like Grandma Fina to all you meet and really transform your world into a happier place.

Art

Painting and sharing umbrellas

Revisit the illustrations in the last few pages of the book where Grandma Fina shares her fabulous, cheerful umbrellas with her friends. Brainstorm ideas for creating happy, playful umbrellas and encourage children to draw those designs on paper. Then, find a few inexpensive, solid-color umbrellas at a dollar or second hand store or by eliciting donation of some no longer needed. Using colorful permanent markers, or permanent or acrylic-based paints, encourage children to transform plain umbrellas into works of cheerful art, like Grandma Fina and her friends. Finally, present the children's delightful umbrellas to elderly family members, someone you know who needs a smile, or those at a community center or care facility. They are sure to bring smiles and joy to the receivers!

Note: Umbrellas can also be used inside! They can bring equal joy and delight hung upside down in a room.



Music

What a wonderful world!

Grandma Fina was the epitome of the song “It’s a Wonderful World,” by Louis Armstrong. Listen to the song sung by Mr. Armstrong at this website,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5IIXeR5OUI>

then teach children the lyrics (also found many places on the internet.) The lyrics can also be found in picture book format in the children’s book, *What a Wonderful World*, by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele.

If children do share umbrellas with elders in their family or at some kind of center for the elderly, singing the song would be a lovely gift prior to presenting the umbrellas.

Creative Writing

Writing Ads

Umbrellas are most often associated with keeping people dry from the rain, and shaded from the sun. Can you think of other uses for umbrellas? In teams or together, brainstorm a list, both practical and outrageous, of other ways umbrellas can be used. Next, create an ad or commercial for that umbrella use, convincing people that they just have to have your special type of umbrella! To help with this project, you might bring in some kid’s magazines and talk about how ads convince people that they just can’t do without a particular product.

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