

DALE!



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**AT TOMMY'S 8TH
BIRTHDAY!**

BOOK & LYRICS:

Alebrije Writers Collective

DIRECTED BY:

Brenda Perez de Tejada

MUSIC BY:

Deborah Wicks La Puma

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Nikolas R. Serrano

**CREEDE
REPERTORY
THEATRE**

TRADITIONS

Familial and cultural traditions weave us together, just like a blanket! Participating in familial and cultural traditions can help develop a strong sense of community and identity. In Tommy's birthday bash planning, he includes traditional birthday activities that are important to him, like his abuela's Lotería game. What are some family traditions that are important to you?

BEFORE YOU GO



Think about a tradition or celebration that is important to your family. Why is it special for you? Who participates in this tradition?



What feelings and memories can traditions lead to?



Why do you think traditions are used as a way to bring people together?

Tradition Mosaic



- As a class, decide what your mosaic phrase will be (Ex: "3rd Grade" or "Celebrate!")
- Think about a tradition or celebration that is important to you. On a square piece of paper, draw what the celebration looks like!
- Connect your mosaic squares together to create the phrase, and take a look at other traditions your classmates celebrate!
- Are there any traditions that are similar to yours?

Invitations!



- Design an invitation for a family tradition you participate in. Think about when it happens, what you do there, and what people should bring with them!

AFTER THE SHOW



In partners or small groups, talk about what your favorite traditional food is, the ingredients, and how you make it. Share with the class!



Think about the ways Tommy's family helped with his birthday party. How do your family members contribute to traditions?



How can traditions help people feel like they belong?

Celebration Stamp



- Think about your favorite family tradition. Design a stamp or logo for that celebration!
- Write a short narrative or share with the class about what your stamp represents.

Lotería Cards



- A traditional deck of Lotería cards has 54 unique picture cards, often representing traditional and cultural symbols.
- Use the template at the end of this packet to have students create their own cards!
- You can choose to compile all the student cards to create tablas, or boards, for each player. See the template for gameplay and rules!

MAKING FRIENDS

Making new friends at school can be hard for a lot of reasons. Tommy navigates conflicts caused by rumors, incorrect assumptions, and surface-level judgments. Sometimes, it takes digging a little bit deeper to see what you have in common with someone new. You might be surprised at how similar you are! What are some ways you could navigate conflict to make new friends?

BEFORE YOU GO



Think about a time you were in a new place or with new people. What did others do to make you feel included?



Think about some qualities that make a good friend and what kind of friend you want to be. Find a partner and share your answers!

Telephone



- Have students stand in a line, and pick a starting phrase. Whisper it down the line, and have the last student say what they heard out loud.
- Compare the starting phrase to the ending phrase. How did it change? What do you think happens when people spread rumors?

Assumptions



- Using basic items, either on flashcards or around your room, describe the item using vague details.
- Students should write down their guesses. Reveal the correct answers!
- How many did you get correct? What do you think could happen when we make assumptions about others?

AFTER THE SHOW



In the play, Mario says, "People just like to make up stories." How do rumors affect the way Tommy sees others and himself?



Pancracio says, "Don't let my name define how I act." What assumptions are made about Pancracio? What are the drawbacks of judging people before getting to know them?

Flip the Blanket



- Have all students stand on a large blanket, sheet, or rug.
- As a group, they need to flip the blanket over without anyone stepping off!
- Encourage teamwork and communication. If someone falls off, restart and try again!

Hidden Similarities



- Have students write down some characteristics about themselves that are not obvious at first glance.
- Collect all the papers and mix them. Pull one out at a time and read it aloud.
- If the statement applies to them, students will stand and say "That's me!" Notice who stands up with you!

BRAVE & HONEST

The silly thing about being brave and honest is that it usually feels scary to actually make those choices. Most of the time, we can be the bravest and most honest when we're feeling the most scared! When we have friends that we trust to support us, it makes those moments easier. Can you think of a time you made a brave or honest choice with help from a friend or family member?

BEFORE YOU GO



Think about a time you or someone you know did something brave while feeling scared. What helped you face your fear? How did you feel afterwards?



Pancracio's cobija helps him feel brave when he feels scared. What helps you feel brave?

Comic Strip Superhero



- Trying new things can be hard, and sometimes doubts creep in and make us feel discouraged. Come up with a short comic strip with you as a superhero, fighting back against those doubts and trying anyway!
- What might happen if you use positive thinking and problem-solving to defeat those doubts?

Two Truths and A Lie



- Come up with 2 truthful statements about yourself and 1 made-up statement.
- Take turns guessing which are true and which is the lie!
- Did you have any of the same truths as someone else?
- Did you learn more about others when they told the truth, or when they lied?

AFTER THE SHOW



Tommy tells Pancracio, "You can totally be brave and scared at the same time." What do you think he means by that?



Tommy lied to his Dad when he said that he passed out all of his invitations. Why do you think Tommy lied? How could he fix his mistake?

Courage Challenges



- Have students come up with challenges that require bravery to attempt!
- Students will pick one challenge for themselves. Celebrate all attempts, regardless of outcome!
- How could you support your friends in these challenges?

Trust Building



- Have students come up with some examples of situations that would either build or break trust.
- Read situations out loud, and add 1 marble to a jar for situations that build trust, and remove 2 marbles for situations that break trust.
- Students will quickly see how easy it can be to break trust. As you discuss situations, talk about some ways you could repair the friendship after a break in trust.

TAKING CARE

Taking responsibility for our things and our friendships is an important part of growing up and being a community member! Throughout the play, Tommy learns how valuable it is to take care of and protect the things and people (and piñatas!) he loves. People in our lives can show that they care about us through how they treat the things that are important to us!

BEFORE YOU GO



How do people in your life make you feel cared for?

Think about your family traditions. What needs to happen for them to be a success? Who do you usually see working? How could you help them next time?



Friendship Web



- Have students sit in a circle with a ball of yarn. Pass the yarn to someone in the circle and say something you appreciate about them. Continue passing so everyone in the circle has a turn!
- Show your friends you care about them and look at the cool web you've created!
- If you can, hang your web up and continue to pin appreciations on it throughout the year!

Classroom Community



- All of you are members of your classroom community! Look around the classroom and notice where you could help. Why do you think it's important to help your classroom?
- Create a list of things students can do around the classroom to practice being community members!

AFTER THE SHOW



Sometimes, taking care of our friends means telling hard truths.

Tommy and Mario both make the brave choice to tell the truth, even though it's hard. What happened to their friendships after they told the truth?

What are some examples of taking care of each other you saw in the show? Are there ways you could use those examples to take care of people in your life?



Finder's Checklist



- Sometimes we lose important things (or troublesome piñatas take them!). As a class or in small groups, come up with a checklist of places to check and questions to ask yourself when you lose something.
- What can you do on your own first? When might you need help, either from a friend or a grown-up?

Friendship Handshake



- With a partner, come up with a friendship handshake, just like Tommy and Mario!
- Switch partners and come up with a new handshake. See how many you can create and remember!

LET'S PRACTICE!

Just like Tommy, you've learned a LOT throughout this show! Let's take an opportunity to practice what we've learned. Remember, the first time you try something, it might not be perfect. That's okay! Practice is an important part of building skills. Pay attention to how you get better with each time you practice, and celebrate yourself!

FINGER PUPPETS

Use the Finger Puppet template at the end of this packet to print and make your own finger puppets!

You'll need:

- Scissors
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Tape or staples

Design and color your finger puppets, and then cut them out. Measure them around your finger, and then tape the two ends together. You now have a finger puppet!

SKILLS TO TRY

Think about some of the lessons and themes talked about in this show! What is something you learned from watching this show?

Feeling stuck? Here are some examples!

- Making new friends
- Telling the truth
- Saying sorry
- Trying again
- Taking care of important people and things

PUPPET SHOW SCRIPT

Now that you've made your finger puppets and reflected on what you learned, it's time to make a script!

Split into groups or partners and write a short script about one of the themes or lessons from the show. Each student should write their own script. Practice in your group!

After practicing, you're ready to perform! Read from your script and use your finger puppet to act out the lines and action in your short play.

Not sure what to write about? Never fear! Use this script excerpt below as a jumping-off point, and make a new ending for Tommy and Mario!

MARIO: What's this?

TOMMY: An invitation to my birthday party. Wanna come? It's this Saturday.

MARIO: You have to cancel your party.

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MARIO: My birthday party is this Saturday.

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Teachers, this is just for you!

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Comparing characters	RL.5.3	RL.5.3	RL.5.3	5.R.3	5.7(B)



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