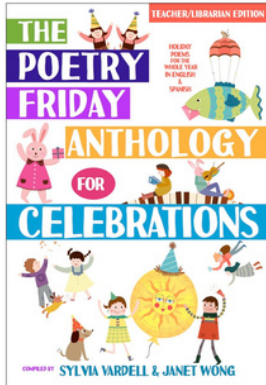


I Can Ask and I Can Learn by Janet Wong

Take 5: Poetry Brain Breaks



Poetry can bring comfort and joy, reduce stress, and increase language learning. And it's fun!

Our brain breaks have everything you need to share poetry one-on-one or as a group.

Thanks to our friends at [Pomelo Books](#), publishers of The Poetry Friday Anthology for Celebrations and more.

Take a 5-minute poetry brain break!

Watch the [video read-aloud](#) with children at home or in your classroom. Follow along with the poem on the next pages in both English and Spanish.

We can learn about Hispanic and Latino cultures all year long while reading poems and books, listening to music, watching videos, choosing and sharing food from our local markets and restaurants, and spending time with members of our school communities.

Have fun together with the conversation starters and activities included in this packet!

Want more?

For more poetry fun, visit PomeloBooks.com.



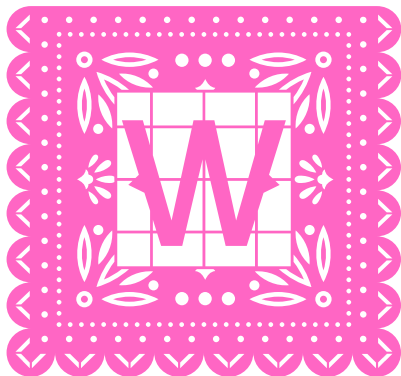


I Can Ask and I Can Learn

by janet wong



I am not Hispanic
but I can celebrate this month.
I asked my librarian
if she could teach us
a song in Spanish.
She sang *De Colores*
and talked to us about people
who joined together
and worked hard
to make farms better in California.



Even though I am not Hispanic
I felt so proud and happy
because I asked
and I learned.



Poem © 2015 by Janet S. Wong from The Poetry Friday
Anthology for Celebrations by Sylvia Vardell + Janet Wong

Find more poems from Janet
and others at PomeloBooks.com

Puedo Preguntar y Puedo Aprender

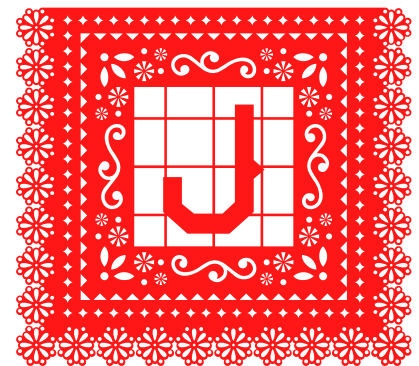
basado en "I Can Ask and I Can Learn" por Janet Wong

No soy hispano
pero puedo celebrar este mes.
Le pregunté a la bibliotecaria
si nos podía enseñar
una canción en español.
Cantó De Colores
y nos habló de gente
que se ha unido
y ha trabajado duro
para mejorar las granjas en California.

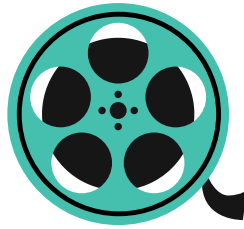
Aunque no soy hispano
me sentí tan orgulloso y feliz
porque pregunté
y aprendí.

Poem © 2015 Pomelo Books, based on "I Can Ask and I Can Learn"
by Janet Wong from The Poetry Friday Anthology for Celebrations
by Sylvia Vardell + Janet Wong

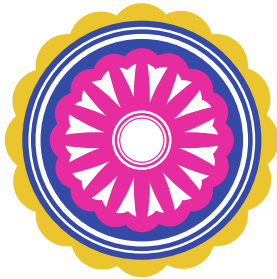
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and others at PomeloBooks.com



Poetry Brain Break

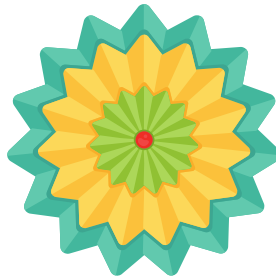


Watch the video to hear the poet Janet Wong read her poem in both English and Spanish.



Try this!

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by learning about famous people like César Chávez who led efforts to help farm workers in California and beyond.



Try this!

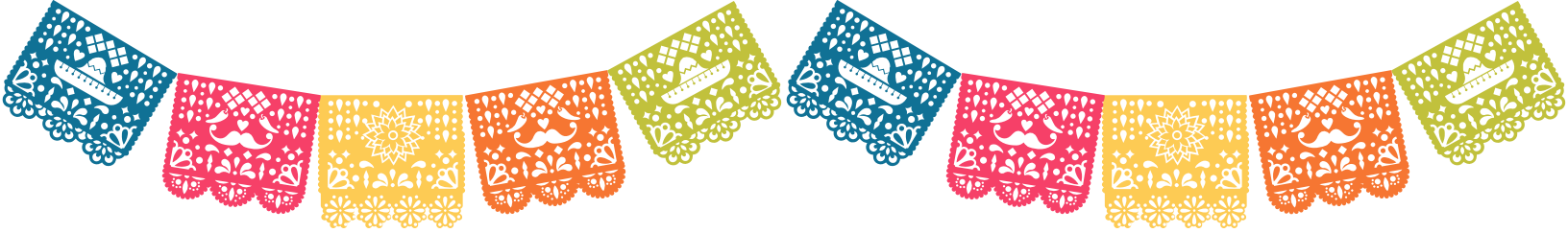
Ask YOUR librarian or an adult you know if they could teach you a song in Spanish like "De Colores."



Try this!

"Ask and learn" just like poet Janet Wong does. Make a list of questions you have today.

Then make a "question poem" out of your list!



Spanish & Indigenous Words We Use Every Day

There are many Spanish words and words from Indigenous languages that English speakers use every day, but we might not realize those words are not originally English words. Talk with friends or family about which of these words you hear or use every day:

armadillo – “little armored one”

breeze – from *brisa* (“cold northeast wind”)

burro – “donkey”

cafeteria – from *cafetería* (“coffee store”)

canyon – *cañón* (“pipe,” “tube” or “gorge”)

chocolate – *xocolatl* (“hot water”) in Nahuatl

fiesta – “party”

guacamole – *ahuaca-molli*, *ahuacatl* (“avocado”) + *molli* (“sauce”) in Nahuatl

mosquito – literally, “little fly”

nacho – named after Ignacio “Nacho” Anaya, who is purported to have invented the dish in 1943

patio – “inner courtyard”

plaza – “public square”

pronto – “hurry up!” in Mexican Spanish

ranch – *rancho* (“a very small rural community”)

salsa – “sauce”

tornado – from *tronada* (“thunderstorm”)

vanilla – from Spanish *vainilla*