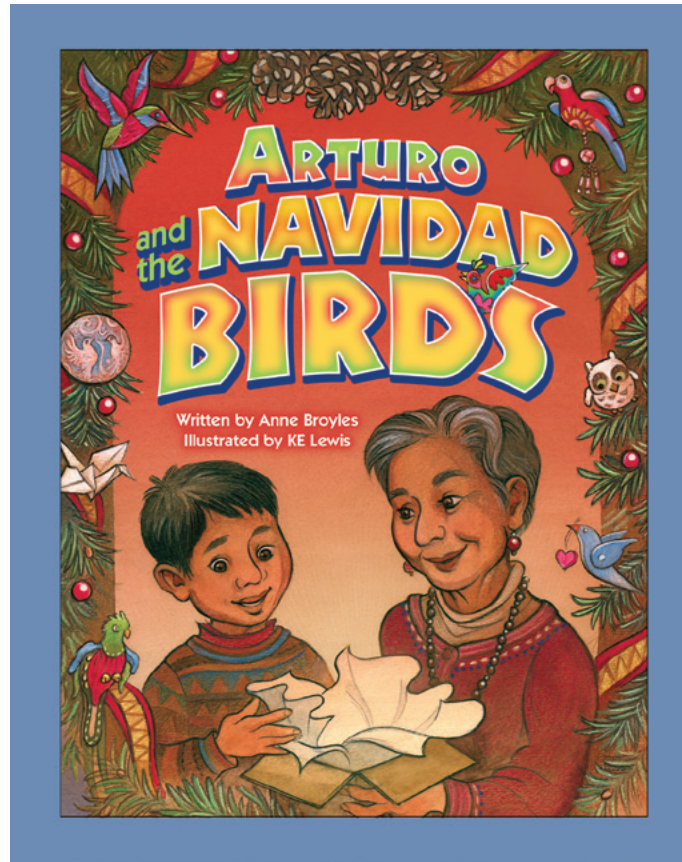




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Arturo and the Navidad Birds



An Activity and Discussion Guide

Developed by Anne Broyles and KE Lewis

SUMMARY

Young Arturo and his grandmother Abue Rosa spend a day decorating the Christmas tree. As each ornament is lifted gently from its wrappings, Abue Rosa tells the story of how it became a part of her collection. Some ornaments represent friends who have passed away; some were precious childhood gifts from her own parents; and some are mementos of her life with Arturo's *abuelo* (grandfather). Each brings a glittering fragment of the past as it adorns the tree. While Abue Rosa attends to the tamales in the kitchen, Arturo plays with a delicate ornament. When disaster strikes, Arturo is heart-broken. He learns an important lesson when he takes responsibility for his action.

BEFORE READING

Ask students to look at the book's cover. From the picture and title, have them guess what this story is about. Do the cover art and title evoke any questions?

YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE

Holidays

- What is your favorite holiday?
- How do you celebrate this holiday?
- Describe activities, foods, or decorations that make the holiday special for you.

Christmas *(for those who celebrate)*

- If your family decorates a Christmas tree, what are your favorite ornaments?
- The first painting in this book shows Abue Rosa and Arturo looking for a Christmas tree. How does your family choose a tree? Do you have a type of tree you like best?
- Does your family have a tree decorating tradition?
- Can you tell stories about your family's ornaments?

Taking Responsibility

- Have you ever broken or damaged something which belonged to someone else?
How did you feel?
- Do you remember a time when you didn't want to admit you had done something wrong?
How did you handle this experience?



ARTURO'S EXPERIENCE

Christmas

- How would you describe Arturo and Abue Rosa's Christmas tree decorating tradition?
- Do you think Arturo will remember his grandmother's stories about the ornaments? Why or why not?

Taking Responsibility

- What is Arturo's first response to breaking Abue's bird?
- At what point in the book does Arturo take responsibility for breaking the glass bird?
- How does he try to "make things right?"
- Why is he worried about telling Abue Rosa about the broken bird?

MAKING INFERENCES FROM THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Study KE Lewis' artwork in Arturo and the Navidad Birds.

- How might you describe the relationship between Arturo and his grandmother? Use specific pictures to back up your ideas.
- What clues in the pictures tell in what part of the world Abue Rosa might have been born?
- How many times can you find pictures of birds in this book?
- How would you describe the color palette used in this book? Why do you think the illustrator chose this color palette?
- Why do you think the illustrator chose sepia tones to show events that happened in the past?
- Where do you think the illustrator got ideas for the different ornaments on the tree?

MAKING INFERENCES FROM THE TEXT

- Why do you think the author used some Spanish words in the English text?
- What might the use of these words tell you about Abue Rosa?

LANGUAGE ARTS

- What does the author mean when she writes, “The tree began to shine with stories?”
- What words or phrases show us how Arturo is feeling?
- Look at Arturo’s facial expressions and body language on the following pages, and choose an adjective that describes how he might be feeling in this picture. Try not to use the same word twice.

p.5 _____

p.19 _____

p.6 _____

p.20 _____

p.7 _____

p.21 _____

p.8 _____

p.23 _____

p.10 _____

p.24 _____

p.16 _____

p.26 _____

p.17 _____

p.28 _____

p.18 _____

p.30 _____

p.32 _____

- Do you agree that, “people are more important than things?” Why or why not? Can you think of another way to say this? Write a story about a time when you needed to hear Abue Rosa’s words.
- Arturo feels the tree is “empty” at the beginning of the book. Describe ways in which the tree is full by the book’s ending.
- Write a poem as if you were Arturo describing his experience on the day he decorated the Christmas tree with his grandmother.
- Create an acrostic poem by using the first letters of Arturo’s name and/or the word “Navidad.”

SPANISH VOCABULARY

Since Abue Rosa was born in a Spanish-speaking country, she speaks English with Spanish words sprinkled in her sentences. Can you guess what these Spanish words mean?

Some words may be similar to English words and/or give clues from how they are used in a sentence. Others you may have heard before.

WORD	CLUES?	GUESS ITS MEANING
<i>Abue</i> (p.5)		_____
<i>Momentito</i> (p.5)		_____
<i>Mi'jo</i> (p.5)		_____
<i>Navidad</i> (p.6)		_____
<i>Hermanito</i> (p.8)		_____
<i>Abuela</i> (p.10)		_____
<i>Tío</i> (p.10)		_____
<i>Tía</i> (p.10)		_____
<i>Árbol de Navidad</i> (p.12)		_____
<i>abuelo</i> (p.12)		_____
<i>Perdóname</i> (p.14)		_____
<i>Pajarito</i> (p.18)		_____
<i>Por supuesto</i> (p.19)		_____
<i>tres leches</i> (p.19)		_____
<i>Abuelita's</i> (p.22)		_____
<i>Donde estás?</i> (p.23)		_____
<i>Qué bonita!</i> (p.24)		_____

1. *Abue* (also, *Abuelita*) n. grandmother
2. *Momentito* _____ Just a minute.
3. *Mi'jo* _____ My child (term of endearment, a contraction of "Mi hijo" (my son).
4. *Navidad* n. Christmas
5. *Hermanito* n. Little Brother (term of endearment from the Spanish word "hijo", or "brother").
6. *Tío* n. uncle
7. *Tía* n. aunt
8. *Árbol de Navidad* n. Christmas tree
9. *abuelo* n. grandfather
10. *Perdóname* _____ Pardon me. Excuse me.
11. *Pajarito* n. little bird
12. *Por supuesto* _____ Of course.
13. *tres leches* n. three milks (flavor of special holiday cake in many countries)
14. *Donde estás?* _____ Where are you?
15. *Qué bonita!* _____ How pretty!

Using Your New Spanish Words

I call my *abuela* _____.

My *abuelo* is named _____.

My *tío* is named _____.

I call my *tía* _____.

My family's *árbol de Navidad* is __real or __artificial.

When I see something that is really beautiful, I might say: “ _____.”

If I see a small bird out side my window, I could call out, “Hello there, _____!”

SOCIAL STUDIES

- What clues can you find in the pictures that tell what part of the world Abue Rosa might have been born in?
- In how many countries is Spanish the official language?
- Can you name other countries where Spanish isn't the official language, but many people speak Spanish as one of their languages?
- How many Spanish words do you know? Is Spanish spoken in your home?
- Do you have any friends who speak Spanish, or have members of their families who speak Spanish?
- In what Spanish-speaking countries is coffee grown?

GEOGRAPHY

- Draw a map of the countries in Central America: Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama. Add Mexico (which is actually in North America but shares language and some culture and history with Central American countries).
- Can you memorize each country's location from north to south?
- Give eight volunteers signs with the names of Central American countries (above). See how fast they can arrange themselves in the correct order, north to south.
- In pairs or groups, research one Central American nation. Pairs or groups can then present what they've learned about history, topography, culture and modern-day life.

MATHEMATICS

- How many different ornaments can you find pictured on this book's pages?
- Add up the number of words in the English and Spanish stories. (The English version contains some Spanish words, but include them in the English total.) What is the ratio if the number of words it takes to tell the story in English compared to the number of words needed in Spanish?
- Of the ornaments, what percentage are mentioned in the book's words? What percentage are birds?

MUSIC

- Write a song that Arturo and Abue Rosa might sing while decorating their Christmas tree. You could use a familiar tune with new words.
- Hand out musical instruments (claves, finger cymbals, drums, recorders etc.) and to "Feliz Navidad" or another energetic Christmas song, enjoy a musical parade around the room.
- Memorize the words to "Feliz Navidad" or another Spanish carol/holiday song.

SCIENCE

- How many kinds of glue can you name? Guess which glues work best on which surfaces.
- Research: what is glue made of?
- Science experiment: Give each student a variety of items such as styrofoam trays, tiles, glass beads, different sizes of paper and cardboard, wood tongue depressors, yogurt containers, strings of yarn etc. Using white glue, encourage students to keep track of each item that is glued. How long does it take for the glue to dry? With which items does the glue not work? Why? OPTION: Use different kinds of glue, such as white store-bought glue, homemade (links to recipes above), rubber cement, wood glue, and make a chart of which glue works best with which materials.
- Make your own glue:
ainableecho.com/homemade-natural-glue/
<http://fun.familyeducation.com/crafts/toddler/37042.html>
<http://www.pennilessparenting.com/2010/08/homemade-glue.html>

KINESTHETIC LEARNING

- Choreograph a dance to a favorite Christmas carol.
- In pairs, mime or act out the story of Arturo and the Navidad Birds.
- In small groups, one person serves as "sculptor", placing others in positions that illustrate a scene from the book.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Pine Cone Creatures - make your own Christmas ornament

At first, Arturo was disappointed with his pine cone bird, but Abue loved it. You can make your own pine-cone ornament using supplies you gather in your home and maybe in a nearby park or wooded area. It could be a bird or some other creature -- real or imaginary!

As you make your ornament, think of a story you can tell about it...



Suggested Materials:

pine cones
other natural materials:
leaves, feathers, sticks, acorn caps
shells, beans, dry macaroni or pasta
chenille sticks (pipecleaners)
popsicle sticks
construction paper or 'fun foam'
colored felt
beads, glitter, googly-eyes
bent paperclip for a hanging hook
yarn or string for hanging

Suggested Tools:

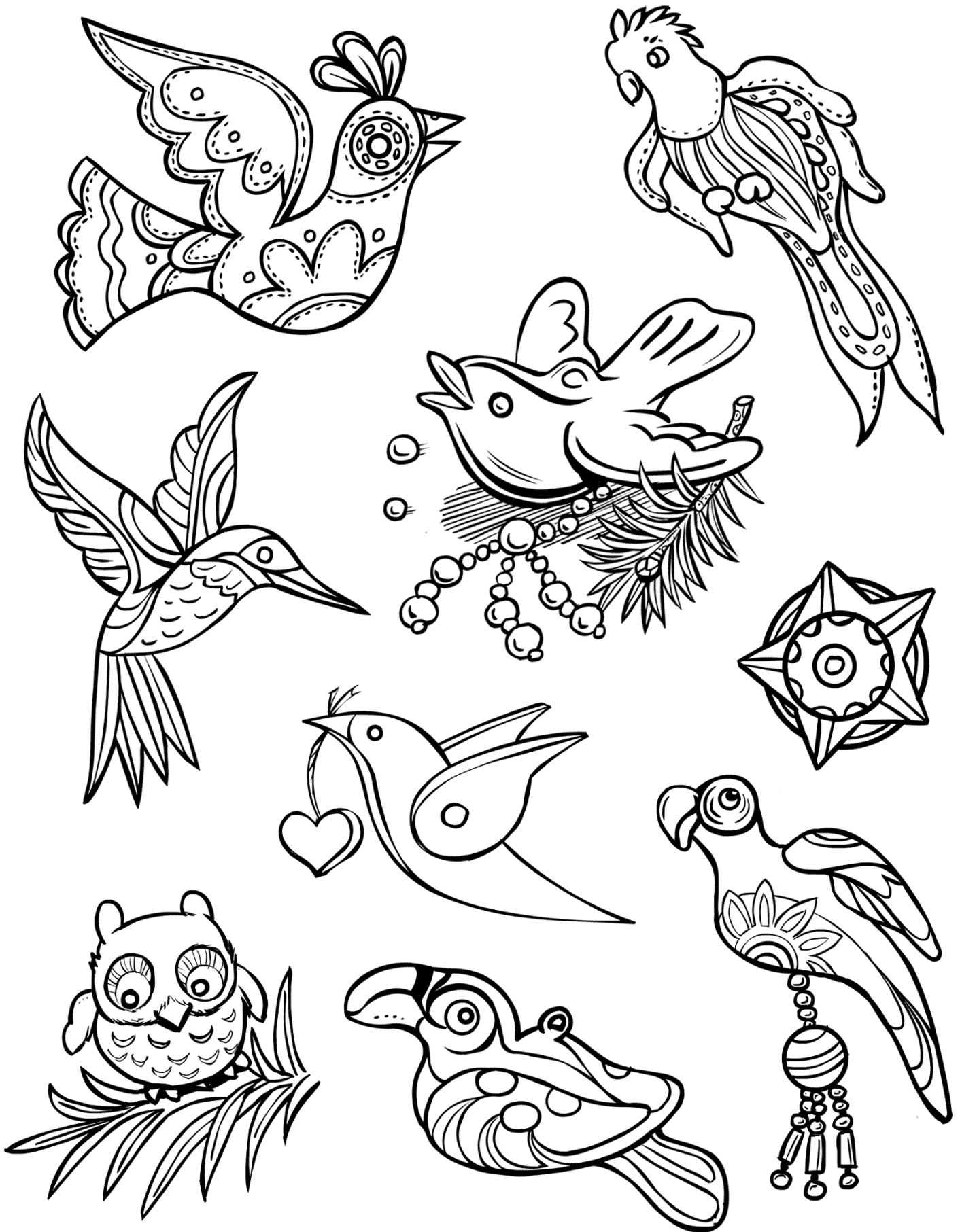
scissors
white glue
glue gun (with supervision)

Choose a pine cone or two, and take a look at them. Turn them all around and upside down. What kind of creature can you imagine? Can you stick two pinecones together?

What kind of eyes should your creature have? Is it fierce or timid? Silly or serious?

Does your creature need feet, or wings? A beak or teeth? Ears or horns or antennae? Fur or feathers?

You can stick some materials - like feathers - directly between the pine cone scales. Others - like chenille sticks and yarn- can be wound or tied around. A glue gun is the best way to stick things on tight, but BE CAREFUL - glue guns are HOT! White glue will also work - just make sure your creature has a safe place to sit and dry



A flock of Navidad birds - color these in, or draw your own!

ARTURO WORD PUZZLE

Words may be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backwards.

T	K	G	B	X	B	A	P	Z	N	W	C	M	H
M	S	D	R	I	B	A	X	N	E	N	M	Q	B
J	J	A	A	R	P	K	B	Q	B	L	S	R	E
I	G	U	M	T	A	Y	W	U	G	W	E	G	E
G	N	T	P	T	I	R	W	Y	E	B	I	Q	R
Z	J	N	H	T	S	N	T	V	J	R	R	F	T
D	R	E	W	E	A	I	O	U	K	L	O	W	X
R	K	M	X	T	R	M	R	B	R	D	M	S	R
U	N	A	I	D	Y	M	A	H	L	O	E	Q	A
H	R	N	P	J	L	L	A	L	C	O	M	C	N
Q	M	R	J	N	A	G	U	N	E	B	B	D	T
C	X	O	R	M	F	X	L	F	I	S	U	R	P
P	A	J	A	R	I	T	O	U	V	T	T	A	A
M	D	A	D	I	V	A	N	J	E	V	O	P	A

Abue Rosa	Hermanito
Arbol	Memories
Arturo	Navidad
Bird	Ornament
Bonita	Pajarito
Christmas	tamales
Glue	Tree