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Grandma And Me At The Flea / Los Meros Meros Remateros



Synopsis

Every Sunday Juanito helps his grandmother sell old clothes beneath the rainbow-colored tents at the remate, the flea market. There, Juanito and his friends romp from booth to booth, fulfilling Grandma's vision of the remate as a sharing community of friendly give-and-take. Juanito gallops to the jewelry-man, who gives Juanito a copper bracelet and a watch for Grandma in exchange for her help sending money orders home to Mexico. Señora Vela gratefully accepts a bundle of Grandma's healing herbs in return for sacks of ruby red chiles. With every exchange Juanito learns firsthand what it means to be a true rematero - a fleamarketeer - and understands that the value of community can never be measured in dollars.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Lee & Low Books Inc; Bilingual edition (April 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892392797

ISBN-13: 978-0892392797

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #570,059 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #204 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Money & Saving #479 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #500 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Collecting churros, chiles and healing herbs, a Mexican-American boy bounds from booth to booth visiting fellow flea market vendors in *Grandma and Me at the Flea* or *Los Meros Meros Remateros* by Juan Felipe Herrera, illus. by Anita DeLucio-Brock. Evoking the feel of folk art, DeLucio-Brock's full-bleed illustrations form a colorful backdrop for side-by-side Spanish and English text. Copyright 2002 Cahnners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ages 4-8. Juanito doesn't mind getting up at five o'clock on Sunday mornings. That's when he and

Grandma Esperanza drive to the open-air flea market where, over the years, they have sold wares, and Esperanza has guided and translated for new immigrants and offered recipes, poems, comfort, and massages to tired workers. As Juanito runs happily through the stalls with his friends, the vendors repay Esperanza's kindnesses with gifts of their own--belts, fruit, jewelry, blankets--which Juanito offers to Esperanza at the story's end. The overt messages about giving, receiving, and reuse (there's no money exchanged) are balanced by the lyrical bilingual text (both languages on each spread) that celebrates the energy and warmth of the "soft city of tents and woolly walls." The parrot-colored paintings are somewhat amateurish in their rendering of people, but their folk-art details--the smiling suns and vibrantly patterned blankets--add appeal. A sunny glimpse of a Hispanic community. Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Great illustrations but a little too long for young Pre-K to K readers. Learn about another Latin-American culture going to a flea market. Recommended for upper elementary ages.

Young Juanito works with his Grandma Esperanza in selling clothing and used books at the local community flea market. As Juanito goes about running errands and bartering goods, he finds himself in the heart of a thriving Mexican American community, one that Juanito knows to be caring and generous, whose value can never be measured only in dollars. A superbly presented bilingual (English/Spanish) picturebook written by the Mexican-American poet Juan Felipe Herrera and illustrated by folk artist Anita De Lucio-Brock, *Grandma And Me At The Flea* is highly recommended for young readers ages 6 to 10.

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