

Adela's Mariachi Band

The 2025 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

written by Denise Vega, illustrated by Erika Rodriguez Medina

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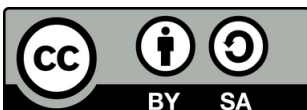


***Adela's Mariachi Band* is about a little girl who wants to be a part of her family's mariachi band, but when she tries the different instruments, everything comes out wrong. La trompeta fizzles, and la vihuela squeaks, but in the end Adela finds her voice and her own unique way of joining the band. This book celebrates the joy and emotion of music and singing, and the literacy building power of rhythmic text and fun onomatopoeia.**

Activity Ideas for *Adela's Mariachi Band*:

- Adela pretends to play the instruments in her family's mariachi band and makes the sounds she hears from the instrument. Imagine playing other instruments together! What sound might a clarinet make? Or an accordion? Using words that convey sounds – onomatopoeia – helps children practice playing with the sounds that make up language.
- Children love singing and Adela shows us that singing can sound different in cultures around the world. There is no wrong way to sing! Choose a favorite song and sing it together as loudly as Adela shouting los gritos as the end of the book. Then sing a book instead of reading it. Your child loves singing with you, no matter what your voice sounds like.
- The faces in this book are beautifully illustrated to represent a wide range of emotions. Look at the characters together and talk about how they are feeling in the pictures. Children need practice recognizing and naming emotions. This helps build vocabulary and gives children a chance to practice their developing emotional literacy skills.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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