Abuelita's Song

The 2026 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

by Gloria Amescua
ISBN-13: 978-1-665957519
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2025

Abuelita's Song is a beautiful story about passing the gift of song from one generation to another. A mother sings a lullaby to her son that he then passes on to his girls. The girls then sing a version of the song to their Abuelita when she visits. Not only does this book model singing, but this is a CLEL Bell winner because of the wonderful parent-child interaction, sweet story, and for encouraging language and one's traditions. The bilingual text for the song encourages keeping one's language alive - in this case, through song.

Activity Ideas for *Abuelita's Song*:

- Abuelita makes up a song to sing to her son as a baby. Make up a song to sing to your child. Have your child repeat the words. In doing so your are improving vocabulary and comphrension skills.

- Ask your child to name their favorite song. See if they can sing it to you, then sing it together. Not only are you spending time with your child but you are also improving their ability to remember and recite their favorite song.

- New songs are often made from old tunes, just like Abuelita's family changed Abuelita's song in each generation to make it their own. Start with a tune you already know and fit new words to the rhythm, exploring what rhymes with those words, and use them in your new song. Try making a song together that is about something you love or something in your daily life. Songs can be a great way to make transitions more fun, such as putting on shoes or getting into the car.

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.