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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Gilberto Y El Viento

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ABOUT THE STORY

A small boy discovers that the wind is a close friend and playmate who helps to fly kites, sail toy boats, and give rides on a gate.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

One of the most respected and prolific children's book authors and illustrators, Marie Hall Ets has been creating outstanding books for children since 1935. Among her many books are *Another Day*, *Elephant in a Well*, *Play with Me*, and *Nine Days to Christmas* (written with Aurora Labastida), which brought Mrs. Ets the Caldecott Medal.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe what it is like to be outside when the wind is blowing hard. Ask them if they have ever had fun with the wind, and have them describe what happens to things around them when the wind blows. Explain that this book is about a boy and his special playmate, wind.

(NOTE: Some exercises include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What are some ways Gilberto plays with Wind?"
- "Does Gilberto ever get his balloon back? Why or why not?"
- "In what ways is Wind like a person?" (*Compare and contrast*)
- "How might the Wind feel when he is playing with the wheel?
Running in the meadow? Knocking down trees?" (*Make Inferences*)
- "How does Gilberto feel about the Wind?"

Vocabulary

Explain to children that verbs are words that show action. List these verbs on the chalkboard and have children make up a sentence for each verb.

susurra (whispers)	sacude (shakes)
sopla (blows)	eleva (lifts)
corre (runs)	

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Make a Wind Pinwheel

For each pinwheel, you will need a square piece of paper, about 6 inches on each side, a new pencil with an eraser, and a stickpin. Have children decorate both sides of the paper. Cut a diagonal line from each corner, stopping before the center. Overlap every other point and stick a pin through all four points and the center of the square. Attach to the pencil by sticking the pin through the pencil eraser. Be sure the pin does not go all the way through the eraser. Children can blow on their pinwheels to make them spin.

Science: Look What the Wind Blew In

Supply a large number of leaves of different shapes, sizes, and colors. Using reference books, help children identify the tree each leaf comes from. You can make a class leaf/tree guide by gluing and labeling each leaf on a piece of paper.

Language Arts: Wind and Other Weather

Talk about other kinds of weather. Have children think about a book titled *Gilberto y el Sol* (Gilberto and the Sun), *Gilberto y la Lluvia* (Gilberto and the Rain), or *Gilberto y la Nieve* (Gilberto and the Snow). Have children write stories about the adventures Gilberto might have in these stories.

Science: Heavy or Light?

Have a supply of small objects of varying weights available (dried beans, pebbles, stones, feathers, blocks, Cheerios, and so on). Give each child a straw and let them experiment: which one is the easiest to blow around? Which is the hardest? Be sure that the objects are not small enough to fit through the straw.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

A Windy World

Have children use the keyword *weather* to find websites on the Internet that describe weather around the world. Ask them to choose a place and find out how hard the wind is predicted to blow there. Children can report on their findings to the class.