Carmela Full of Wishes

DIGITAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Adapted by Alvaro Saar Ríos From the book by Matt de la Peña, Illustrated by Christian Robinson.
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MEET THE TEAM

The people who made this production possible.

CAST
Carmela: Clarissa Ramos
Big Brother: Ernesto Dominguez
Mami & Ensemble: Crystal M. Bratton
Papi: Alberto Ramirez Jr.

CREATIVE TEAM
Directed by: Claudia de Vasco
Scenic Designer: Lucian Hernandez
Costume Designer: Stormie Brennan
Music Composer: Jaime Ramírez
Lighting Designer: Larry Martinez

PRODUCTION TEAM
Tour Stage Manager: Giselle Galindo
Technical Director: Pat Smith
Assistant Technical Director: Chris Boneta
Properties Manager: Lucian Hernandez
Audio Engineer: Zachary Walsh
Lighting Supervisor: Thaddeus Morris
Wardrobe Supervisor: Sarah Steele
American Sign Language Interpreter: Robert Cardoza

ABOUT CARMELA FULL OF WISHES

SYNOPSIS
On her birthday, young Carmela wakes up thrilled to finally be old enough to join her big brother on their family errands. As they travel through their neighborhood, Carmela stumbles upon a lone dandelion growing in the pavement. But before she can blow away its white fluff, her brother reminds her to make a wish. With a heart full of hopes and dreams, Carmela wishes for a candy machine, a fancy bed for Mami like the ones at the hotel where she works, and most importantly, for Papi to come back home soon. Then her dandelion is crushed before she can make her biggest wish. Can her brother help her to believe in the power of wishes once again?
MEET OUR FAMILIA!

Clarissa Ramos as Carmela
Ernesto Domingues as Big Brother
Crystal M. Bratton as Mami & Ensemble
Alberto Ramírez as Papi
Follow this link to watch a read along video of the *Carmela Full of Wishes* storybook from Brightly Storytime!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_HwgJT54fE
Instructions:
- Write or draw your wish.
- Use scissors to cut along the dotted lines.
- Tightly roll the paper from left to right.
- Secure the roll with tape.
- Gently bend the top to fluff up your dandelion.

WISH WALL EXTENSION ACTIVITY
On a poster, whiteboard, or smart board, create a space for students to write out or draw a wish and add it to the wall - a visual representation that we all have things we hope for, and can also support each other’s dreams.
Directions: For this creative drama activity, students should be standing in a circle. Educators, please read the facts aloud and relay the physical instructions for students to follow.

Fact 1: Estimated to have existed throughout history, dandelion seeds were shared by people and traveled around to places like Egypt, Greece, Rome, France, and China!

1st Action: Students will pretend they are holding a dandelion and, passing it to the next person, will say “You get a dandelion.” This should go all the way around the circle.

Fact 2: The name is actually from the French “dent de lion” which means “lion’s tooth,” because it was thought the leaves looked like teeth. The name was misunderstood and then mispronounced, which is how we got to calling them “dandelion” today.

2nd Action: As students are passing the dandelion around the circle, instead of continuing to pass the dandelion, they can stop it by crossing their arms and saying “Dent De Lion.”

Fact 3: Dandelions are a highly nutritious plant that can be used as remedies for illnesses and ailments. When prepared correctly, dandelions can also be used in food! They can be added to soups or salads, turned into teas, and used in many other unexpected ways!

3rd Action: When the dandelion comes around, the student may say “I need some dandelion food/medicine” and change places with the student across from them in the circle. The student they crossed with will start the cycle again.

Fact 4: When colonists came to North America, they brought dandelion seeds with them. Dandelions have since traveled all across the continent and found new places to call home.

4th Action: When the dandelion comes around, the student may say “Around The World” and all students will move/dance around the room, representing the travel of dandelion seeds. Students will take a different spot to form a new circle.

Fact 5 + Creative Challenge: As a flower, the dandelion opens up in the day for sunlight but closes in the evening when it’s dark.

5th Action: Students will use the 5th fun fact to create their own action to add to the game.
In its lifetime, the dandelion goes through five different life cycle stages! Click on the following link to watch a timelapse of the process.

Using the diagram circles, draw the corresponding stages in the life cycle.

Creative Drama Extension Activity!

Using the following script, guide your students through an exercise where they will imagine themselves as a dandelion going through the life cycle. We suggest this background music to accompany the exercise: Plant Growth Music

"Imagine you’re a tiny seed. You are safely planted in the ground. You start to hear raindrops tapping on the earth. More begin to fall but you aren’t afraid because you know once the water reaches you, it will help you grow! After the earth soaks up the rain, the clouds move away to welcome the sun. The sun begins to warm up the ground and you can feel the warmth on your shell. You’re getting warmer and begin to stretch. You stretch and move through the earth until you start poking out of the ground! You’ve grown from a seed into a plant! Take a deep breath of fresh air and be proud of how resilient you are.

As you enjoy the day, you notice that you are a plant that begins to bloom! You are a dandelion bright and sunny for all to see. You enjoy each day and start to feel your petals are changing shape. In some time, your petals become seed heads. You’ve changed so much and bring joy to anyone who sees you. As people normally make wishes, you think of what you would like to wish for. You think of something special, and the wind begins to blow. You begin to breathe with the win, in and out. On the the count of three you make your wish. 1, 2, 3 and give a deep breath ou. Thank you for using your imagination, you were an excellent dandelion!"
Carmela imagined a lot of wishes while running errands with her brother. Now it’s your turn to think about what your own wishes would be - these could be wishes for yourself, for your family, for your classmates or your teachers, or even for someone you don’t know!

Take some time to think about your wishes, then write them down.

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Once you’ve finished, your teacher will lead you in a group share. After your group share, on the grid below, create a wordsearch based on your ideas. (Don’t forget to include the words you hide in the Word Bank!) Once the grid is all filled out, swap with a classmate and see if you can find their wishes hidden on the page!

Word Bank

Tip: Write in your wishes first, then fill in the leftover blank spaces with random letters!
BIRTHDAY WISHES! CROSSWORD

Fill out the crossword puzzle below based on things you saw in the play (or book)!

Answer key in back of guide

Word Bank
Across:
- Papel Picado
- Feliz Cumpleaños
- Scooter
- Dandelion
- Folklórico
- Birthday
- Seven

Down:
- Lavandería
- Mango
- Bracelets
- Migrant Worker

Across:
1. How to say Happy Birthday in Spanish
2. A popular Mexican art form made with paper
3. Carmela is celebrating her what?
4. A type of traditional Mexican dance
5. What Carmela rides around on
6. The flower Carmela carries around
7. The age Carmela turns in the play

Down:
2. What Carmela’s Dad does for a living
4. Carmela’s favorite type of lollipop
5. What does Carmela get for her birthday?
7. The Spanish word for laundromat
In other countries, there are different traditions and ways to celebrate birthdays!

**Canada**
In Canada, people grease your nose with butter on your birthday to ward off bad luck.

**Vietnam**
Individual birthdays aren’t celebrated in Vietnam. Instead, everyone celebrates turning a year older at “Tet,” the Vietnamese New Year.

**Russia**
At birthday parties in Russia, grown-ups hang gifts on a clothesline so all the children can pull one down to take home.

At the beginning of *Carmela Full of Wishes*, Mami and Brother sing Carmela a song to celebrate her birthday. Listen here for a Bi-lingual version in Spanish and English:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynnhJiGRcVo

How do you like to celebrate yourself and others? In the space below, write a new tradition to celebrate joyful moments!

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Author Matt de la Peña and illustrator Christian Robinson used their creative and collaborative skills to create the storybook *Carmela Full of Wishes*. In the video below, they share what inspired them and how they worked together.

**Creative Challenge:** In small groups, find a story to act out for your classmates to watch. It should be a story everyone knows, or maybe a book from your classroom library. It should have a beginning, middle, and end. Everyone in the group should share their strengths and work together to bring the story to life!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vIPY-NKDSI
Activity Resources for Teachers

- How Dandelions arrived to the US - link
- Dandelions as Medicinal Supplements link
- 10 Facts about Dandelions link
- Celebrating Birthdays: How do different cultures celebrate? link
- Birthday traditions around the world - ESL language studies abroad link
- How people celebrate birthdays all over the world link
- Unique birthday traditions around the world - Reader’s Digest link
- Plant Growth Music link

Resources for Teachers and Families

- Empathy-based toolkit for teachers about family separation: Teaching about Immigration, Asylum, and Family Separation at the US-Mexico Border: A Toolkit for K-12 Educators and Parents
- For educators and families around the immigration system, including a lesson plan from Teaching Tolerance: How Educators Can Help Undocumented Students - Informed Immigrant
- For teachers to help immigrant kids feel safe: How Teachers Can Help Immigrant Kids Feel Safe
- For educators to support undocumented students: Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth

San Antonio Resources

- RAICES - San Antonio Refugee and Immigration Center
- Full list of RAICES’ recommended resources

We would like to thank our friends at RAICES for providing these valuable resources!
Make Your Own Dandelion Craft (pg. 4)

TEKS:

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<th>Theatre TEKS</th>
<th>ELAR TEKS</th>
<th>Health TEKS</th>
<th>Physical Education TEKS</th>
<th>Science TEKS</th>
<th>Social Studies TEKS</th>
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Move Through The History of The Dandelion (pg. 5)

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### Dandelion Science (pg. 6)

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### Birthday Wishes Word Search and Crossword (pg. 7 & 8)

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**Birthday Traditions** (pg. 10)

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Across:
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5. What Carmela's Dad does for a living
6. What Carmela rides around on
7. The flower Carmela carries around
8. The age Carmela turns in the play

Down:
2. What Carmela's Dad does for a living
4. Carmela's favorite type of lollipop
5. What does Carmela get for her birthday?
7. The Spanish word for laundromat
WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

Magik Theatre’s mission is to use the power of theatre to create Magikal storytelling for children that Activates imagination, Grows young minds, and Inspires creativity and a love of learning that is the Key to a more literate future for our community.

QUESTIONS?
How to book a field trip or tour
info@magiktheatre.org
(210) 227-2751

Support us through the State Employee and Charitable Campaign and the Local Employee Charitable Campaign by United Way of Bexar County.

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm
magiktheatre.org
Magik Theatre
420 S Alamo St
San Antonio, TX 78205

8058 Magik Theatre (local)
413031 Magik Theatre (state)

TEKS REFERENCES:
https://tea.texas.gov/academics/curriculum-standards/teks/texas-essential-knowledge-and-skills

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