

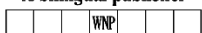
A Reader's Guide to My Friend Tomás

This guide provides reading enrichment activities, strategies to introduce information and discussion topics related to inter-cultural relationships among young children for K-3 students. An asterisk* marks material for older students.

1. Help your child find the country of Peru in the map at the end of the story. Following the given clues, fill in the map with the names of the Spanish speaking countries in the Americas.
2. Ask your child if she has a friend at school who speaks a language other than English. What language is it? What language does Tomás speak, apart from English?
3. Tomás and his friend enjoy playing soccer. Ask your child what is his/her favorite sport? If not soccer, how does his sport differ from soccer? How is it similar? Can he/she name well known players?
4. Tomás' mother cooks Peruvian food. Ask your child if he/she can name one Mexican, one Italian and one Chinese food item. Ask your child what his favorite American meal is. Food is a great introduction to cultural differences.
5. Encourage your child to look up at the clouds in the sky. Tomás sees a condor and his friend sees a dragon among the clouds. What does your child see? *What are clouds made from?
6. By looking at the boys' bedroom one can tell how their choice of sports, hobbies and books differ. Can you name two similarities and two differences between Tomás and his friend?
7. Tomás and his friend have many activities. Ask your child what his favorite activity in the book is. Why?

My Friend Tomás – Written by Patricia Aguilar Morrissey / Illustrated by Gretchen Deahl

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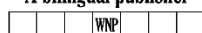
8* Help your child read the glossary of English-Spanish terms. Ask your child if he/she is familiar with some of the Spanish words? Help him/her learn some Spanish words used in the story.

9.*Have your child pick a country that speaks Spanish. Help him/her find 4 interesting facts about this country, for example, is it a mountainous country? Is it on the Atlantic Ocean? Does the national music use a specific instrument? What kind of food can you find in this country?

10.* Talk to your child about how people differ from each other. Mention language, food, ethnic group, race, religion, and everyday customs. The boys in the story are culturally different but have many similarities. Ask your child to name 5 similarities between Tomás and his friend. Ask your child if some of his/her friends come from a culturally different background or have parents or grandparents who do.

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My Friend Tomás: Work with Verbs

Choose the correct form of the verb to finish the sentence.

1. Tomás is _____ (ride, riding) his bike.
2. We will _____ (playing, play) with our airplanes.
3. Let's _____ (build, built) a secret fort.
4. My friend _____ (drinks, drinking) lemonade.
5. We are _____ (washed, washing) our hands.
6. Soccer _____ (is, are) my favorite sport.

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My Friend Tomás: Unscramble the letters to find South American countries.

UROEDAC _____

RIZALB _____

MIBALOOO _____

RUEP _____

GUAUYUR _____

ICEHL _____

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