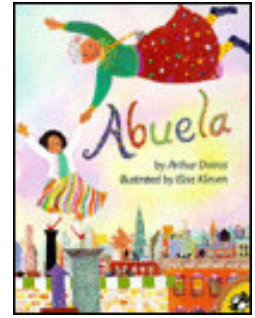


# Abuela

by Arthur Dorros



- **Things to get ready:**

*Choose one of the two art activities:*

1. **Grandma Pictures**-drawing paper for each child, crayons, colored pencils
2. **Cloud Drawings**-white paint, brushes, blue paper for each child

- **Getting the children ready to listen:**

*Choose the poem that matches the art activity you have chosen.*

*If you choose the “Grandma Pictures” activity...*

Tell the children you will be reading a book about a grandmother called Abuela. Tell them she is good at taking her granddaughter on adventures. Ask them if they have a grandma or *abuela*. Read the poem. See if they can tell one thing they enjoy doing with their grandmothers.

**Grandmas** by Stacy Crossen

Grandmas are good at imagining things,  
Flying up high and soaring on wings,  
Helping discover new friends and new faces,  
Visiting all kinds of interesting places,  
Taking the time to pretend and to be,  
Sharing some time with just you and just me.

*If you choose the “Cloud Drawings” activity...*

For this poem, show the end papers in the book to the children and ask them to be quiet for a minute. Tell them to close their eyes as you read the poem slowly. Afterwards tell them you will be reading a book about a little girl and her grandmother who go floating through the sky.

**Cloud Dragons** by Pat Mora

What do you see  
in the clouds so high?  
What do you see in the sky?

Oh, I see dragons  
That curl their tails  
As they go slithering by

What do you see  
in the clouds so high?  
What do you see? Tell me, do.

Oh, I see *caballitos*  
That race the wind  
High in the shimmering blue.

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Open the book and show the children the entire cover (front and back) Read the title, author and illustrator. Talk about which one is *Abuela* and which is the granddaughter.
2. Ask the children to look carefully at the illustration and tell you where *Abuela* and her granddaughter are.
3. Refer back to the poem you have read and connect it to your invitation to the children to listen to the story.  
*“This grandma is flying up high and soaring too.  
Let’s see what kinds of places they visit.”*  
*“Abuela and her granddaughter are floating through the sky. Let’s listen and find out why.”*

DURING reading:

1. This book is very imaginative. Help the children enjoy the pretending by using your voice to show imagination and wonder.
2. Be sure to hold the illustrations long enough for them to see the details. Try to point to a part of the picture as you are reading that will help them connect the words with the illustration. *(Move your finger around Liberty’s head as you say “We would circle around Liberty’s head...”*

AFTER reading:

1. Invite several children to share what was their favorite adventure that *Abuela* and the granddaughter took.
2. Encourage their imagination by asking “What would be the best part of being able to fly?”

- **Extension Activities**

*Grandma Pictures*

Lead a discussion about the book. Invite the children to share a favorite “adventure” from the book, if they haven’t already. If you can, tell about a special time you shared with your grandmother. To help the children understand how to get started, describe simply and briefly how you would draw your picture of this memory. Tell them to think about a happy time they have spent with a grandmother. Call on a few to share. Invite them to say what they will draw in their picture. Tell them you will be around to help write a sentence they tell about their picture. Distribute drawing paper, crayons, colored pencils (*preferably not markers*). Encourage them to share their pictures with their families.

*Cloud Drawings*

Show the end sheets of the book. Lead a discussion about what they see, and have they ever seen “pictures” in the clouds themselves. Have them imagine what they see in the clouds and have them draw what they might see if they were flying around the city. Give them an example of something you would draw in your picture. Describe the materials of white paint for the clouds and blue paper for the sky. Tell them you will walk around and write down a sentence they dictate about their picture. Once the paint has dried, have them draw themselves in with crayon. Encourage them to share their pictures with their families.

- **Related Books**

**A Busy Day For A Good Grandmother**

by Margaret Mahy

**Grandmother And I**

By Helen Buckley

**Luka’s Quilt**

by Georgia Guback

**Me And Nana**

by Leslie Kimmelman