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Activity Guide

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La Canción Del Lagarto

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ABOUT THE STORY

This tale chronicles the friendship of Lizard and Bear, focusing on the former's good spirits and patience and the latter's determination to learn the song his friend has composed so he can enjoy singing, too.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Says author George Shannon, "I've always been wrapped up in stories and books. My parents read to me, and I in turn read to my younger brothers. Books and family stories filled our home." Now George Shannon shares his affection for books by writing his own. With both his first book, *The Gang and Mrs. Higgins*, and *Lizard's Song*, Mr. Shannon told the story in the book aloud many times before he ever put pen to paper.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS AND SINGER

The illustrations in *La Canción Del Lagarto* are the work of Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. A native of the Phillipines, Mr. Aruego abandoned law for children's book illustration, beginning with the publication of *The King and His Friends* in 1969. Ariane Dewey, who has collaborated with Mr. Aruego on over 40 books, does the research and provides the color for the pictures. Willie Colon, the singer on the cassette, is also a song-writer, a 10-time Grammy nominee, a self-taught computer expert, and a political activist.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain to the group that this is a story of a warm relationship between two friends. They are very different, but each one loves his home. Ask the group what they like about their homes. Encourage each child to identify something in his or her home that makes is special, cozy, or comfortable.
(NOTE: Exercises devoted to vocabulary include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and the goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What was Lizard's favorite pastime?"
- "Why did the ducks fly in front of Bear?"
- "Why did Bear have such trouble remembering Lizard's song?"
- "When Lizard woke up in the sack, what did he do?"
- "Why did Lizard's change help Bear remember the song?" (Analyze)

Vocabulary

Copy these vocabulary words on the board. Have children draw lines matching each Spanish word with its English definition.

oso	nest
pato	cave
gorrion	beat
nido	duck
colmena	sparrow
cueva	hive

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Animal Homes

Lizard lives on a rock and Bear lives in a cave. What other homes do animals have? Have each child choose an animal to research. Ask them to use books and encyclopedias to find out where the animal lives. Each child can report on their animal's home to the rest of the group.

Art: Animals Colors

The animals in the story are depicted in bright colors. Have children decide on a color and write it in Spanish or English. Underneath the color's name, they can draw at least two animals that have that color. Children can look in books with pictures of colorful birds or reptiles if they wish.

Language Arts: Character Traits

Write these words on the board. Ask the group which characters in the book exhibited each trait. Then have them suggest other character traits that each character possesses.

patience loyalty affection cheerfulness determination cleverness

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.

More About Lizards

Have children find information on the Internet about lizards using *lizards* or *reptiles* as keywords. Ask them to write down the answers to these questions:

- On what continents are lizards found?
- Are there any poisonous lizards?
- What is the biggest lizard/
- What do lizards eat?