

Smiles & Butterflies

Words of inspiration for teachers

Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy • American Reading Company



Authors in the Classroom

Our Names

Invite the students to talk about their names. *When was their name chosen? Who chose it? Are they named after someone? Does their name have a special meaning? Are they called different names at different times, by different people? How do they feel about their name?* They may need to ask questions at home before the activity can be completed.

Have them write about their names to create individual or collective books. The process will be more fruitful if you begin by creating a book about your name and sharing it with the students.

For the theory that informs this practice and multiple examples, see: Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy. *Authors in the Classroom: A Transformative Education Process*. [Allyn & Bacon].

Home/School Interaction

Our Parents' Names

Encourage your students to talk with their parents or caretakers about the parents' or caretakers' names following the same prompts of the class dialogue.

Mexico

Today in the Future
Alma Flor Ada

Mexico, green.
Mexico, dry.
Mexico, sea.
Mexico, desert.
Mexico, joyful with its piñatas.
Mexico, sentimental with its guitars.

Mexico, indigenous,
Spanish and mestizo.
Mexico, with roots
in the ancient past.
Mexico, creating
the present
and the future.

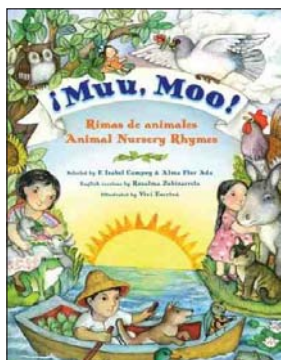
*Let utopia inspire you! Walk in
its direction. Each step takes you
closer to your goals.*
Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy

Cultural Enrichment

Spanish-speaking people have contributed significantly to the culture of the world. Extraordinary poetry is one of these contributions. There is a wealth of poetry in the oral tradition. Delicate lyrics in lullabies (*“Mi niño se va a dormir con los ojitos cerrados como duermen los jilgueros arriba de los tejados”*), for example, cultivate a child’s love of poetry.

Great authors including Nobel Prize winners Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, and Juan Ramón Jiménez and international figures like José Martí, Amado Nervo, and Federico García Lorca have also created poetry for children throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Books & CDs



¡Muu, Moo!: Rimas de animales/ Animal Nursery Rhymes

Our latest compilation brings children the pleasure of rhymes and new discoveries from the animal kingdom. Read aloud, make puppets, share an impromptu representation of each poem!

“In addition to being a perfect resource for bilingual programs, this book will be enjoyed as a bedtime read-aloud.” — *School Library Journal*

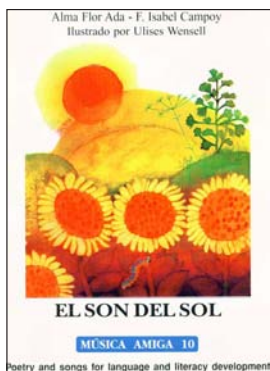
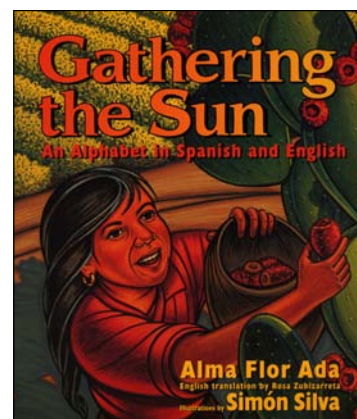
Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English

Have each student select and memorize a poem.

Have the whole class sing “Orgullo” or “Pride,” adding new lines about things that make them proud.

Invite each to contribute an original poem to create a classroom book about the farm workers’ contributions.

The CD with music and voice by Suni Paz will allow them to sing the poems.



El son del sol

In small groups have the students select poems to sing after learning something about the poet.

Have the whole group sing “No te olvides, no” and talk about the value of being bilingual.

El encuentro mágico con el folklore infantil

This DVD offers suggestions on the use of rhymes and other traditional forms in the classroom.



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