



Reading Roundup



Carmela Full of Wishes

Written by Matt De La Pena

Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Carmela Full of Wishes, written by Matt De La Pena and illustrated by Christian Robinson.

Before Reading

When you have quiet time to dream, do you ever make wishes? What are some of the things you wish for? (Answers will vary.) Take a close look at the cover of the book. It looks like Carmela is maybe at the ocean. Look at what she's holding in her hand. It's a flower called a dandelion – a white flower that looks like a ball of tiny feathers. If you take a breath and blow it like a birthday candle, the tiny feather-like petals will fly away. Let's read Carmela Full of Wishes to see how the dandelion might help Carmela make wishes.

During Reading



- **The front cover spread – P** - *Look at the illustration on this page. Does it give us a clue about where Carmela might live?* (The picture tells us that Carmela probably lives on a farm in the country.) Continue reading through page 3.
- **Page 3** - *Have you ever heard the word manure? Manure is a nice word for cow poop. Farmers use it to make plants healthy. It smells terrible, but really helps the farmers' crops.* Continue reading through page 7.
- **Page 7 - T/T** - Point out Carmela and her brother. *What do you think might be in the cart?* (Answers will vary.) *Take time to look at the picture of Carmela's town. What do you notice in the illustration? Turn and talk to your partner about what you notice.* (Answers will vary.) Continue reading through page 11.
- **Page 11 P** - *Now we have more information about what might be in the cart? What do think the brother has in the cart?* (After reading the sign and knowing they're at a laundromat, we can infer that laundry soap, dirty clothes, some coins for the machine... are in the cart.) Continue reading through page 17.
- **Page 17 - T/T** - *The author doesn't tell us what Carmela's mom does for a living, but we can use the words and the illustration to help us figure it out. Turn and talk to your partner about what job Carmela's mom has.* (The words say that Carmella's mom spent all day making fancy beds for fancy people, so she most likely works at a hotel as a housekeeper.) Continue reading through page 23.
- **Page 23** - *Carmella has ignored the way her brother treated her until this point in the story. She finally becomes so angry that she begins to dream about what her wishes could do to him.*
T/T – *Are you able to understand how Carmela feels? Have you ever been so angry with someone that you dream about what your wishes could do to them? Turn and talk to your partner about that.* (Answers will vary.)
- Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to “read” the illustrations and think about the relationship between Carmela and her brother.

After Reading

- **P** - *What makes Carmela's feelings about her brother change from when she was wishing him to be a wheelbarrow of manure?* (When her brother was kind to her after her dandelion was ruined, her feelings about him changed. She understood that he cared about her and loved her – even he was sometimes mean.)
- I'm wondering why Carmela took off her bracelets at the end of the story. I'm not sure. Sometimes, authors would rather not tell us every single detail. Sometimes, we just need to think about it and decide for ourselves.

Remember, we have people in our lives who care for us and want the best for us. Remember to thank someone who has gone out of their way to help you. Maybe it's a brother, sister, parent, grandparent, teacher, or friend.

Vocabulary

- Bodega** - small grocery store p.18
- Thrummed** - made a musical sound p. 21
- Scurrying** - moving with really small footsteps p. 22
- Abandoned** – empty or left behind p. 27
- Spores** - tiny little flowers that flutter off from the dandelion p. 30



**WORD
WAGON**