



ESTELA'S SWAP
By Alexis O'Neill

Illustrations by Enrique O. Sanchez
Lee & Low Books, 2002 ISBN 1-58430-044-2

Reviews

"This well-crafted tale featuring a Mexican-American father and children will be wonderful for reading aloud to individuals or to groups."
Kirkus Reviews

"... charmingly illustrated story." *Amazon*

"A story of compassion and generosity set in the exciting atmosphere of a California swap meet." *BookSense*

Awards

Vermont Center for the Book Beyond Differences Top Ten Diversity Books 2002

California Readers "California Collection" 2005 & 2006

Description

Estela is attending her first swap meet, where she plans to sell a music box to make money for lessons with the Ballet Folklórico. When a strong wind ruins the flowers the woman across from her is selling, Estela decides to give her the music box so she can listen to cheerful music while she makes new flowers. Although Estela may not have enough money for the lessons, her heart is full. And, in the end, the flower seller has a wonderful surprise for Estela.

Teaching Ideas

to use with

ESTELA'S SWAP

MUSIC: Learn the words to the song, "Cielito Lindo," in Spanish and English. It's the song in Estela's music box! Make up a dance to go along with the music.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Find out about more about the historical costumes and dances that represent different regions in Mexico.

LANGUAGE ARTS: Have you ever sold a personal object at a garage sale, tag sale or swap meet? Why did you decide to sell it? How much money did you expect to receive? How much money did you get? What did you do with the money you received? Write about it.

DRAMA: Act out the story of ESTELA'S SWAP or perform it Readers' Theater style.

MATH: Hold a "Classroom Swap Meet."

Set up each desk in your classroom as a "stall" to sell any objects from home — such as toys, comic books, books, cards, etc. — that you no longer want or need. (Be sure to get your parents' permission first before you bring in anything.) Here's how to get ready for the Swap Meet.:

1. Decide what you want to sell.
2. Decide if there will be one cashier or if each person will have his or her own money box.
3. Gather bags to put purchases in.
4. Advertise the Swap Meet throughout the school.
5. Set up the classroom to make it easy for customers to see what objects each person has for sale.
6. Organize your objects and display them in an attractive way in your space.
7. Price each item reasonably.
8. Make sure that you have a money box with bills and coins for making change. Keep paper and a pencil handy for quick adding. Use a calculator for checking your addition.
9. Be courteous and helpful to your customers. Let them browse and try things out. Be prepared to negotiate prices.
10. As each item is sold, keep a written log of its sale and amounts. Consider having the whole class selling cold drinks and a snack during your swap meet.
11. If you have items left over at the end of the Swap Meet, consider donating them to a local charity.

[For a handy Sales Inventory form, see the back of this sheet of paper.](#)

