



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “My Name is Maria Isabel” by Alma Flor Ada. In this story, a girl finds the courage to tell her teacher how she feels about being in the holiday pageant her class is preparing and being called by her full given name. At the end of the story, Maria Isabel performs a holiday song in the pageant. You may want to discuss this story with your child as you work together on the following activities.

Edible Traditions

In “My Name Is Maria Isabel,” the students learn about traditional holiday foods from different cultures. Work with your child to prepare a favorite holiday food that is part of your family’s traditions. Help your child follow the steps of the recipe, measure the correct amounts of ingredients, and organize the cooking space. Your child might enjoy taking a sample of the finished product to school to share with classmates.

VOCABULARY

Word of the Day

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “My Name Is Maria Isabel”:

attentively
rehearsals
pageant

restless
tropical
troublesome

You and your child might enjoy this vocabulary-building game. Each day choose one word as the “Word of the Day” and discuss its meaning. Every time a family member uses the word correctly in conversation, he or she earns a point. The person with the most points at the end of the week wins.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

The Story of My Name

You and your child might find a book about names and their meanings and origins at your local public library. Help your child look up his or her name and take notes about it. You may want to tell your child the story of how the family chose his or her name.

Show Time

Help your child look through the entertainment section of the newspaper for upcoming events for young people. Your child might clip the ads for those that most interest him or her and take them to school to share.

