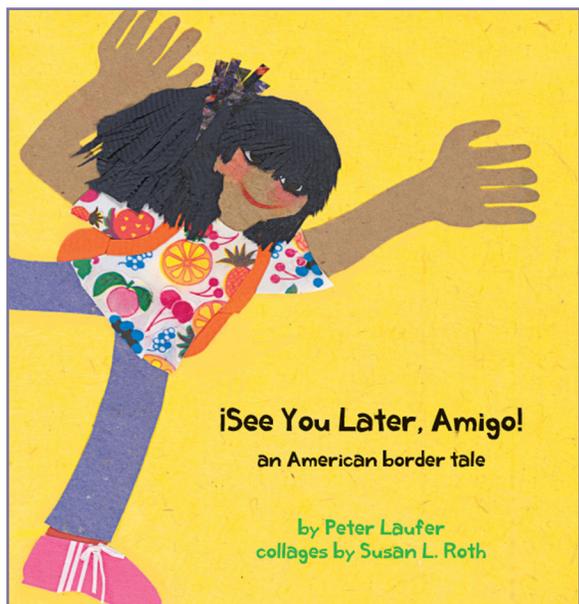


# Classroom Activities for

## *¡See You Later, Amigo! an American border tale*

introducing Spanglish



**How can you make friends with the new boy at school when he won't talk to you?** Join María de la Luz with her friends, family, and dog as she finds a way to break through the language barrier. Peter Laufer and Susan L. Roth celebrate the vibrancy of Spanglish and the cultures of Calexico on the US-Mexico border.

**Subject Areas:** New at School, Spanglish language, Hispanic and Latino, Friendship, Multiculturalism, Southwest, Calexico, Mexico.



*María de la Luz walks through town.... and to the baseball field.*

## For the Classroom

### Activity – Art:

- Make a collage of a dog, perhaps of your dog or your favorite kind of dog.
- Make a collage portrait of yourself with a friend.

### Activity – Creative Writing:

- Write the story of what happened on your first day at school or when you were new at school. What was your first day like? How did you make friends?

### Activity – Geography & Social Studies:

- Find Calexico on a map of California. What is the sister city across the border in Mexico? Investigate the two cities.
- What languages are spoken in the United States? Brainstorm with the class the many words that English has borrowed from various languages. What are the geographical origins of these languages?
- Interview someone who speaks more than one language. Ask them such questions as: How did you learn your languages? When do you use each language? What words are difficult to translate from one language to the other, why?

### Discussion points for comparison:

- What do you do after school?
- What is your favorite sport? What sports do your friends like to play?
- What languages are spoken in your family? In your school? In your town?

### Investigation points:

- What words from Spanish have been adopted by English (i.e. corral, Florida, breeze, canyon, fiesta, tortilla etc...). Try grouping the words into categories (i.e. places, food, landscape, cowboys). How do the categories help us to explain the transfer of words to English from Spanish?
- Every language adopts words from other languages. But Spanglish is not English adopting some words in Spanish or Spanish adopting some words in English. How does Spanglish creatively transform the two languages?
- What are the jobs of a teacher, a mechanic, a baseball player, and a grandmother?

### Activity – Outdoor:

- Play a game of baseball!



## About the Author and the Artist



**Author, Peter Laufer** is the James Wallace Chair Professor in Journalism at the School of Journalism and Communication. He is also an award-winning author, broadcaster, documentarian, and journalist. He has studied and taught throughout the world—in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia—and has sent home reports on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the wars in Central America for NBC Radio, reported for CBS Radio as the Berlin Wall fell, and chased butterflies in Nicaragua for his book *The Dangerous World of Butterflies*. Laufer’s research probes the intersection of borders, migration, and identity.



**Artist, Susan L. Roth** is illustrator of more than 50 picture books for children, many of which she has also written. Her collages illustrate *Parrots Over Puerto Rico* (Lee and Low Books), which received the Robert F. Sibert Medal with co-author, Cindy Trumbore. Her most recent publication is *¡See You Later, Amigo! an American border tale*, written by Peter Laufer (Barranca Press).

## Review

*This delightful and audacious book will bring much joy to those who speak the lengua de la comunidad, and for those captivated by it! Wonderfully illustrated, the story speaks from the everyday experiencias auténticas of generations growing up as hablantes bilingües as well as the ways they inhabit and understand their heritage and their bicultural world. Un triunfo that touches los corazones of its readers, chicos y grandes!*

— Professor Claudia Holguín Mendoza  
Director of the University of Oregon  
Spanish as a Heritage Language Program

## Partnership



*¡See You Later, Amigo!*  
*An American Border Tale*  
HC: \$19.95 – 978-1-939604-10-1  
PB: \$9.99 – 978-1-939604-11-8

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