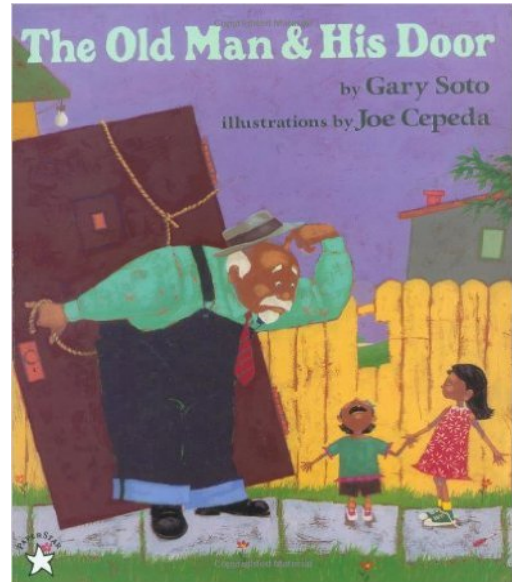


*The Old Man and His Door* by Gary Soto with Illustrations by Joe Cepeda

Book Review Written by Catherine Cantu

*The Old Man and His Door* is a delightful book about an old man who has an adventure after misunderstanding his wife's instructions. "La puerta. El Puerco. There's no difference to el Viejo." It's funny and clever and is enjoyable to multiple grade levels as well as adults. The book is written in English but has Spanish words intertwined into the text. A glossary of Spanish terms with pronunciation guide is provided in the front of the book which makes the book easily used by non-Spanish speakers. The illustrations are colorful, fun and enhance the text.

The story starts out with a misunderstanding when the wife asks the old man to bring "el Puerco" (the pig) to the barbeque but he hears her say "la puerta" (the door). So, of course, the old man puts the door on his back and begins his trek to the barbeque. Along his adventure he meets a variety of people and animals that are in need of assistance. The old man uses his door in many ways to help them and collects different items from the people and animals along his way. When he arrives at the barbeque his wife can't believe he brought the door but is happy when he shows her all the items he has collected. In the end, they use the door as the picnic table and the old man shares what he has brought. Lucky for el Puerco that the old man can't hear very well and he didn't get taken to the barbeque!



I used this book in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month which is in September. Our students enjoyed creating actions to go with the story as well as helping with ideas about accompanying the songs I had written to go with the story. The songs were short enough for the students to learn quickly and catchy so the audience wanted to sing along. They were accompanied by simple borduns, outlining chords and layered in accent parts. The students had input on the form of the songs, how we layered in the parts and any additional instruments that were used for sound effects. Parents were involved in the presentation by helping us make the props.

*The Old Man and His Door* made a wonderful impression on students, parents and administrators as the students performed it for the school throughout the day. The book is humorous and is fun to read for all ages.