

# The Yellow Handkerchief

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Self-Confidence, Hispanic Heritage

**Book Brief:** When a young girl feels ashamed of her family for being “different” and subconsciously blames her abuela, she gradually grows to not only accept but also love the yellow handkerchief that represents a language and culture that once brought embarrassment.

**Author:**  
Donna Barba Higuera

**Illustrator:**  
Cynthia Alonso



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about the yellow handkerchief.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students, “Do you have an item that is special to you or your family? What is it?” (Optional: think, pair, share)

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read today, watch what happens to the yellow handkerchief.”

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why doesn't the girl like her grandma's handkerchief?
- Why does Abuela go live with her sister?
- How does the handkerchief change the girl?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** The yellow handkerchief was left behind by abuela. How does the girl feel about the handkerchief in the end?

**Extending Our Thinking:** The yellow handkerchief is an important symbol in the girl's family and heritage. Using [RIF's Titles Can Be Telling](#), have students go back through the book and make connections in the book to the title.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.