



## Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book aloud or children read it on their own and you discuss it later, use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their responses and to listen thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What happens in the story?
- How would you describe Pablo Neruda when he was a boy and teenager?
- What were some of the things he loved that he wrote poems about?
- If you wrote poems or stories about things and places you loved, what would you write about?
- Why do you think he changed his name?
- Why do you think Pablo was angry when he saw that people were cold, hungry and sick? How do you feel when you see suffering like that?

## Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

### 1. Empathy and Social Justice

Ask your child why Pablo Neruda was called a “poet of the people.” Remind them that when he saw dangerous working conditions or people who were cold, sick or hungry, he was concerned and shared that concern with the world by telling their stories through poetry. Talk with your child about things they see in their lives (in their school, community, country or world) that they believe to be unfair or unjust and engage them in a discussion about it, including their thoughts and feelings. Explain that Pablo Neruda let the world know about the injustices he saw by writing poems. Emphasize that there are other ways to express how you feel about injustices in the world, including talking with others, sharing on social media, writing letters, raising money, engaging in [activism](#), etc. Think together about something you might do together or as a family about an issue that is important to you and your child and underscore the importance of turning your concern for others into action.

### 2. National Hispanic Heritage Month

Explain to your child that September 15-October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is an annual celebration of the contributions, heritage and culture of Latino people. Let them know that one reason a month is dedicated to commemorating Latino history and culture is because sometimes Latino people are not included in our history and accomplishments because of exclusion and bias; this is also true for other themed months such as Black History and Women’s History Month. It is also important to emphasize that the history and culture of Latino people should be integrated throughout the year, not just isolated to one month. Although National Hispanic Heritage Month takes place during a month-long period of time, it is important to keep in mind and acknowledge that, like other groups that comprise U.S. society, the history of Latino people in the U.S. is part of American history. Learning about Pablo Neruda is one example of focusing on Latino history and people during the month but consider what else you might do to commemorate the month and learn including books, films, art, history, etc. using [8 Ideas for Teaching National Hispanic Heritage Month](#).

### 3. Importance of Words and Expressing Yourself

Pablo Neruda loved words and he used his words to make observations and express himself about the things and people that were important to him. Ask your child what some of the objects, people and issues were that Neruda wrote about. Discuss how words are important to convey feelings, express oneself about passions and interests and in speaking the truth about important issues. Talk with your child about the words that they like, why they like them and how they use their words through speaking, listening, reading and writing to express themselves. Look around the house and identify objects they like and ask your child to describe them, either through writing or talking. As you go about your daily lives, encourage your child to express their thoughts, feelings and how they are experiencing different things in the world.

### Other Books You May Like

*Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* by Duncan Tonatiuh, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/diego-rivera-his-world-and-ours](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/diego-rivera-his-world-and-ours)

*Sonia Sotomayor: A Justice Grows in the Bronx* by Jonah Winter, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/sonia-sotomayor-a-judge-grows-in-the-bronx](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/sonia-sotomayor-a-judge-grows-in-the-bronx)

*Tito Puente, Mambo King* by Monica Brown, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/tito-puente-mambo-king](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/tito-puente-mambo-king)

*Yes! We Are Latinos* by Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/yes-we-are-latinos](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/yes-we-are-latinos)

### ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on refugees and social justice.

#### Curriculum Resources

"8 Ideas for Teaching National Hispanic Heritage Month," *Current Events Classroom*, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/8-ideas-for-teaching-national-hispanic-heritage-month](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/8-ideas-for-teaching-national-hispanic-heritage-month).

"Social Justice Poetry," *Current Events Classroom*, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/social-justice-poetry](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/social-justice-poetry).

"Who Am I? Identity Poems," *Current Events Classroom*, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/who-am-i-identity-poems](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/who-am-i-identity-poems).

#### Websites

10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism)

A list of ideas for bringing social activism into the classroom and outside of the school walls. These strategies can be acted upon individually, organized together as a group and young people can join with a larger effort that is taking place locally or nationally.

Definitions Related to Bias, Injustice and Bullying

[www.adl.org/education/resources/glossary-terms/definitions-related-to-bias-injustice-and-bullying](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/glossary-terms/definitions-related-to-bias-injustice-and-bullying)

A listing of terms and definitions relating to bias, diversity, bullying and social justice concepts written for elementary-age children.

### National Hispanic Heritage Month

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/national-hispanic-heritage-month](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/national-hispanic-heritage-month)

A list of PreK-12 curriculum and other resources that help bring the themes of Hispanic Heritage Month to your classrooms.

### Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources)

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

### The Question Corner

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner)

A collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members interested in promoting respect for diversity among young children.

### Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk)

Provides the tools parents and family members need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Includes discussion guides containing a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources.

### Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

People, Identity & Culture: Latino/Hispanic, Latino-American, Hispanic-American,

[www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid%5b210%5d=210](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid%5b210%5d=210)

Social Justice, [www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/social-justice.html](http://www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/social-justice.html)