

IMAGINE/IMAGINA written by Juan Felipe Herrera



A buoyant, breathtaking poem.

Juan Felipe Herrera is the son of migrant farm workers. In addition to publishing more than a dozen collections of poetry, Herrera has written short stories, young adult novels, and children's literature. His most recent works for young people include *Imagine* (2018) and *Jabberwalking* (2018). In 2015 he was named U.S. poet laureate.

Read more about Juan Felipe Herrera [HERE](#)

»» BEFORE READING

Share that each year from September 15 through October 15, Hispanic heritage is recognized, along with the achievements of Hispanics and Latinos in history. In addition to this time frame, any time of the year is great to expose children to a diverse group of people and new cultures.

»» READ THE STORY

You can read the story to any age group or play this version of [Juan reading the story](#). This version is great to play as infants and toddlers are engaged in other quiet activities as well.

- » Pre-read to mark pages of interest listed below.
- » **As you read, share with children descriptions and alliteration:** Windy whispers, Fuzzy faces
- » **Wavy creek:** wave and wind your hand in a curving motion as you read
- » **Bending buildings:** pause to have children bend like a skyscraper
- » **Honey:** colored guitar, ask, what color is honey?

- » **Actions to do with children while reading and after for Gross Motor:** ages 2-4
Jump | Wave | Skip | Hop

»» ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY ONE: GATHER WORDS (Literacy Activity for Ages 2-3)

Supplies needed: Index card, marker

1. Use cvc words to make matching pairs of flashcards on the index cards.
2. You will have 2 cards with the same word.. Examples are: dog, cat, big, bad, fat, man, etc.
3. The adult or children spread the cards on the floor for a matching game. Children pick up words to try to make pairs. Match as many as they can.
4. At the end of the game, the adult will, one at a time, show the word, say the word, then children will say the word. This can be done with all words or only the words of the winner, depending on time.
5. For another version with larger groups of children, the adult can split the group in two.



- Then, each child in group 1 is given a card.
- The matching word card is given to another child from group 2.
- Then, the two groups find their friend who has the same word card they have.
- To finish each group will say their word aloud, and all children say it back, with adult help as necessary.



- Glue a pond on the paper.
- Use infants fingers to make fingerprints around the “pond”.
- Size and make copies of the frog legs template. Print 3 to 6 for each child. In the middle of each frog leg template, use infants fingers to make fingerprints around the “pond”. Adults can cut out and glue a set of the frog prints on each fingerprint to make a family of frogs around the pond.
- Draw eyes and a smile on the frogs with the sharpie.

ACTIVITY TWO: SENSORY BAGS WITH ‘TADPOLES’ (STEAM Activity for ages 0-1)

Supplies needed: Orbeez, large ziplock bag, baby oil, blue or green food coloring, water, glitter, glass globules, duct tape



- Prepare the orbeez to use as ‘tadpoles’
- Fill the ziplock bag with baby oil.
- Then, add some drops of food coloring.
- Lastly, add a bit of water. Make sure you don’t add too much water.
- Add glitter, globules
- Then, get as much of the air out of the bag as possible. Close it and duct tape over the ziplock to help prevent leaks.
- Tape to the floor or a window for tummy time floor play or strengthening standing play, depending on milestones.

ACTIVITY THREE: CRAFT FINGERPRINT FROGS (for ages 0-1)

Supplies needed: Green paint or water based stamp pad, 8 ½”x 11” white paper - cut in half, small blue paper oval “ponds”, glue, frog print template, black fine point sharpie

Frog leg template



ACTIVITY FOUR: FROG LIFE CYCLE (STEAM activities for ages 2-3)

*PLAY THE SCIENCE FROG LIFE CYCLE [SONG](#)

OPTION 1: Tadpoles

Supplies needed: Penne pasta, shoe box size plastic tote or other similar container, scoops, measuring cups, sand scoops, fish tank nets, etc.

- Cook penne noodles to medium hard so they last the activity (dump after 1 session).
- Fill the container full of water and add blue food coloring.
- Add a variety of scoops and containers to the container.
- Children play.

OPTION 2: Frog Life Cycles

Supplies needed: Sand, shoe box size plastic tote or other similar container, frog life cycle toys (found [HERE](#)), water, stones or pebbles (choose sizes to prevent choking hazard)

1. Pour a few cups of sand on one side of the sensory bin.
2. Place stones and pebbles along the edge of the sand.
3. Add water to the other side of the bin. Some water will seep into the sand.
4. Add the frog life cycle toys to the bin.
5. To begin play, show and share the frog life cycle toys.
6. Then, children play in the bin.
7. As they play, talk about each stage of the frog life cycle.
8. Practice putting them in order together.
9. Explain that tadpoles start as eggs, then hatch and live in water. They have gills and tails like fish.
10. As they grow, they change. They lose their gills and tails. Then, they grow legs and lungs to breathe. As frogs, they spend a lot of their adult life on land.

ACTIVITY FIVE: COUNTING LILY PADS (Math activity for ages 2-4)

Supplies needed: Green foam craft sheets, scissors, green permanent makers

These can easily be added to a water sensory bin as floats or made in doubles to make a match game.

1. Before the activity, make numbered lily pads. Number according to your child or the group ability.
2. Children play with the numbered lily pads to practice ordering numbers and counting.
3. Extend by adding lily pads with dice like counting dots or writing out the number words to play match games. Children match numerals to dots or words.

ACTIVITY SIX: LITERACY NOOK OR QUIET CORNER - JUAN'S OUTSIDE OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE

Supplies needed: Small black tarp or flat sheet, rope
heavy-duty command hooks(optional), glow-in-the-dark paint, recycled sponges-cut into stars

For Hand print bird:

Hand print paper cutout, small orange rectangles to make the feet, one orange triangle for the beak, googly eyes

1. Tie a rope securely in a corner of the room or outdoor space, use command hooks if needed.
2. With children, sponge paint starts on one side of the fabric or tarp. Allow paint to dry.
3. Fold the 'sky' flat sheet or tarp over the rope.
4. Add picture books about night time or Hispanic heritage month.
5. Make hand print birds
 - a. At tables, trace children's hands, children cut them out, with help.
 - b. Children glue on the feet, beak and one googly eye.

ACTIVITY SEVEN: FUZZY FACE FLOWERS (Art activity for ages 2-4)

Supplies needed: Colored felt, pom-poms, Popsicle sticks, green paint, scissors/pinking shears, glue

Before the Activity

1. Paint craft sticks with green paint
2. Cut circles out of felt, use pinking shears for fun edges into 3 sizes for shape/size practice

Directions

1. Children sort petals into the correct size categories first
2. Next, glue the petals together in the correct size order. Large-medium-small
3. Add a pom-pom.
4. Glue a green Popsicle stick "stems" to the back of each flower.

ACTIVITY EIGHT: CAJÓN ACTIVITY (for ages 2-4)

Supplies needed: Shoe boxes-1 for each child, clear packing tape, circle templates- trace a medium sized round lid onto card stock or cardboard (make one per child, or practice sharing), scissors, markers, stickers, stamps and/or paint

Make an easy cajón, box drum.

1. Use a shoe box to make a small cajón.
2. Children can trace the circle template on the lid of the box to make a sound hole. This is great fine motor skill practice.
3. Next, children with adult help, cut the hole. Most sound holes are round, but you can extend the activity to experiment size and shape.
4. Children can tape the lid on the shoe box with clear packing tape with help.
5. Children decorate their cajón with stickers, stamps and/or paint.
6. Play the cajón, take turns or if everyone has one, play simple beats together.

ACTIVITY NINE: LANGUAGE PRACTICE (for all ages)

Spanish words from the book to listen to or say together. Click on the Spanish words to listen.

Family | [Familia](#)

River | [Rio](#)

Moon | [Luna](#)

Poem | [Poema](#)

Griddle to cook tortillas | [Comal](#)

Father/Dad | [Papá](#)

Chicken | [Pollo](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
For Children - Deadwood

[Picture Books](#)

For Adults - Gary A. Thrall



[Difference between Hispanic, Latino and Spanish](#)

[Difference between Hispanic and Latino](#)

For All Ages:

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#)