

 Essential Question 

What traditions do you know about?

Read about how a family starts a new tradition.



Go Digital!



A Spring Birthday





May was a happy time for Marco. It was his birthday month.



“Can I have a party this year?” he asked.
“Then my friends can celebrate with me.”



“It’s our family tradition to have a birthday dinner,” said Gram. “**Your** friends can join us. I will make *empanadas* for everyone.”

“**Nobody** makes better *empanadas*, Gram!” Marco said. “But it would be fun to do something new this year.”



“How about a picnic?” Dad asked. “I **heard** about a nice spot in the park on Elm Street. It’s in **front** of the ball field. We can **push** the tables together.”

“That sounds like fun,” said Marco. “We can have hotdogs, burgers, and Gram’s *empanadas!*”



At last, it was the morning of Marco's birthday. He opened his eyes. He saw Mom and Dad and Gram. They were singing the Mexican birthday song, "*Las mañanitas*." Marco sprang out of bed. He could not wait for his party.





Mom and Dad went shopping **before** the party. First, they got a baseball mitt for Marco. Then they bought a birthday cake and a *piñata*.

Everyone met at the picnic spot. “Happy birthday! *Feliz cumpleaños, Marco!*” they shouted.





Mom hung the *piñata*. Dad spread out the food. There were hotdogs, burgers, and yummy *empanadas*!

After lunch, the children took turns striking the *piñata*. Each one swung three times. The *piñata* was **difficult** to hit! At last it split open. The kids shrieked and scrambled for the treats.



Next Marco opened his gifts. When he saw the baseball mitt, he cried, “Thank you! This is just what I wanted! I can use it in the game **tomorrow.**”

When it was time for cake, Marco’s family sang the Mexican birthday song again. Marco’s friends hummed along. Then Mom taught them the words so they could sing it, too!



“This is the best birthday party I’ve ever had!” Marco said. “Can we do this again next year?”

“Sure,” said Gram. “It’s fun to mix the old with the new. A spring picnic can be your birthday tradition.”



Make Connections



What traditions do you know about from other places in the world? **Essential Question**



Theme

The **theme** of a story is the message that the author wants to tell readers.



Find Text Evidence

Find clues that can help you figure out the theme of “A Spring Birthday.”

page 285

“It’s our family tradition to have a birthday dinner,” said Gram. “**Your** friends can join us. I will make *empanadas* for everyone.”

“**Nobody** makes better *empanadas*, Gram!” Marco said. “But it would be fun to do something new this year.”



**Clue**

A birthday dinner is the family's tradition.

**Clue**

Marco's family has a picnic with a *piñata*, *empanadas*, and other kinds of food.

**Clue**

Marco wants a birthday picnic next year.

**Theme**

Blend old and new to make a new tradition.

**Your Turn**

Talk about the theme of "A Spring Birthday."

Go Digital! Use the interactive graphic organizer



Readers to...



Sentence Fluency Andy used different kinds of sentences to make his writing interesting.

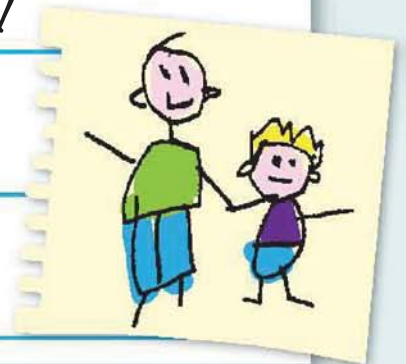
Andy's Letter



Dear Trish,

Have you been to the zoo? I go each spring with Gramps. This year he bought me a toy seal! I had lots of fun.

Your friend, Andy



Your Turn



Tell what kinds of sentences Andy used in his letter.

Writers



Using I and me Use **I** as the subject of a sentence. Use **me** after a verb or after a word such as **for, at, of, with, to, or between**.



I go each spring with Gramps.
This year he bought
me a toy seal!



Your Turn

COLLABORATE



- Find another place where Andy uses **I** or **me** in his writing. Tell why Andy used that word.
- Write new sentences. Use **I** and **me** in your sentences.