

Keeping Up Traditions

FOCUS QUESTION

How and why do people change traditions?

NOTICE AND WONDER

Look at the text you will read in this lesson. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

TALKING ABOUT MY TRADITION

A tradition is an activity or event that has happened for a long time. It happens in a similar way each time. What is a tradition in your family or community?

What Happens

When It Happens

Tradition

Who Participates

Why It Happens

My tradition is called ____.

We do it every _____. The people who participate are _____.

What happens is _____.
We do it because _____.



***Proud to Be an
Álvarez, Acts One,
Two, and Three***
by Alexis A. Miranda

Proud to Be an ÁLVAREZ

ACT ONE

by Alexis A. Miranda

TRANSLATIONS

¡Hola, primo! = Hi, cousin!

Sí, claro. = Yes, of course.

¡Adiós! = Bye!


¿Qué pasó? = What happened?

Abuelo = Grandfather

Mija = sweetheart

Abuelita = Granny

mis hijos = my children

- 1 Cast of Characters:** Papi, Mami, Miguel (age 16), Millie (age 13), Luis, Abuelita
- 2 Setting:** The Álvarez kitchen, Saturday morning
- 3 Scene 1:** *Papi and Mami are drinking coffee at the table before work. Millie and Miguel enter. Papi's cell phone rings.*
- 4 PAPI:** *(into phone)* ¡Hola, primo! Sí, claro. No, I didn't forget. Okay. ¡Adiós!
- 5 MAMI:** ¿Qué pasó?
- 6 PAPI:** *(worried)* That was Luis. He said the shirts for the family reunion have to be ordered today or they won't be ready in time. I haven't even designed them yet!
- 7 MAMI:** This is our busiest time at the store. Maybe Miguel can help?
- 8 MIGUEL:** I have to study for my exams, Pop. *(pauses)* We could always skip the shirts this year.
- 9 PAPI:** We can't skip the shirts! It's an Álvarez tradition!
- 10 MIGUEL:** *(mumbling)* An embarrassing tradition . . .
- 11 PAPI:** Miguel! It's a yearly tradition your *abuelo* started many years ago. Now that he's gone, we are keeping it alive. It means a lot to Abuelita. 

Stop & Discuss

What problem does the Álvarez family have?



12 MILLIE: I can design the shirts, Papi!

13 PAPI: Are you sure, *mija*?

14 MILLIE: Yeah, it's no problem.

15 PAPI: Álvarez teamwork! I love it! (*thinks for a moment*)
Actually, that's not a bad idea. You could put TEAM
ÁLVAREZ on the back, like a sports jersey!

16 MAMI: (*firmly*) Abuelita will not wear a sports jersey.

17 PAPI: Okay, okay. You design it how you want, Millie. Just
make sure it says "Álvarez."

18 MILLIE: I will.

19 PAPI: And nothing too **flashy** . . .

20 MILLIE: Got it.

21 PAPI: But not boring.

22 MILLIE: Papi!!! I got this.

23 MAMI: (*getting up*) She's got this. And we've got to get to
the store.

24 PAPI: All right. All right. (*kisses Millie's head and hugs Miguel*) Have a good day, *mis hijos*!

25 (*Papi and Mami exit. Millie heads to her bedroom to start
working on the design.*)



flashy = bright, showy,
or glittery

Stop & Discuss

How does Millie feel
about designing the
shirts? How can you tell?

Underline three
sentences or phrases that
show how she feels.

Millie feels _____. I can
tell because _____.



Analyze Elements of Plays

- A **play** is a story that is performed on stage by actors. A play is divided into **acts**, or main parts, similar to the chapters in a book. Plays are made up of the following elements to help readers understand the story in the play:
 - Cast of characters:** a list of characters in the play
 - Setting:** where and when a scene takes place
 - Scenes:** smaller parts inside acts; they describe what is happening in each setting
 - Stage directions:** tell the actors what to do, how to speak, and where to be on stage
 - Dialogue:** the words characters say (includes the name of the character speaking)

Reread/Think

Reread lines 1–6. Then complete the chart with a partner. Include an example of each play element and write what it tells you.

Element	Example	What It Tells Me
Cast of characters	Cast of Characters: Papi, Mami, Miguel (age 16), Millie (age 13), Luis, Abuelita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • names of the characters • The family has two teens.
Setting	Setting: The Álvarez kitchen, Saturday morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early in the day • breakfast time
Scene		
Stage directions		
Dialogue		

Proud to Be an ÁLVAREZ

ACT TWO

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slogan = a short saying that shares information about people or products


Stop & Discuss

What does Miguel think about Millie's new design?

Discuss with your partner what you learn from the stage directions and the dialogue.

I can tell from the dialogue that ____.

I can tell from the stage directions ____.

- 1 **Setting:** Millie's bedroom, Saturday evening
- 2 **Scene 1:** *Millie is sitting on her bed, reading a book, when Miguel taps on her half-open door.*
- 3 **MIGUEL:** *(smiling)* Hey, Mil. How did it go with the shirts? You didn't write anything cheesy like Pop usually does, did you? *(repeating last year's T-shirt slogan in a goofy voice)* "I'm an Álvarez. I'm always right."
- 4 **MILLIE:** *(hands on hips)* Nope, nothing old-fashioned like that. I decided to change things up and design something that everyone will want to wear.
- 5 **MIGUEL:** Good. We need something fresh. Can I see?
- 6 *(Millie grabs her laptop from her desk and opens it.)*
- 7 **MIGUEL:** *(takes a breath)* Wow. That's . . . different.
- 8 **MILLIE:** Do you think Papi will like it?
- 9 **MIGUEL:** It might not be what he's expecting, but maybe that's a good thing. Reunion shirts are embarrassing, but this . . . *(He points at the laptop screen.)* I like it. 



- 10 MILLIE:** *(after a pause)* You know, this is the first time Papi has let me do anything on my own.
- 11 MIGUEL:** It's a pretty big deal, Mil. Everyone's counting on you.
- 12 MILLIE:** I want the design to be just right.
- 13 Setting:** The Álvarez kitchen, the same evening
- 14 Scene 2:** *Papi enters, carrying pizza boxes.*
- 15 PAPI:** I'm home! I got pizza!
- 16** *(Millie and Miguel join Papi in the kitchen.)*
- 17 MILLIE:** *(peeking in one of the pizza boxes, disgusted)*
Ew! Are those anchovies?
- 18 PAPI:** It's for your mom when she gets home. But I agree with you. Nobody should put fish on pizza.
- 19** *(Millie gets drinks and sets them on the table. Miguel hands out plates with plain slices of cheese pizza. They all sit at the table and eat. After a few moments of quiet chewing, Papi rubs his chin and yawns.)*
- 20 MIGUEL:** Long day, Pop?
- 21 PAPI:** *(sighs)* Yes, but I'm happy to be home now. *(smiles at Miguel and Millie)* 🖐️.....➡️

Stop & Discuss

Why does Millie want the design to be "just right"?

Find details in the play that support your answer. Discuss with your partner.



eagerly = with excitement

22 MILLIE: (*eagerly*) Papi, I finished the reunion design. Do you want to see it before I place the order?

23 PAPI: (*wiping his mouth, putting the used napkin on his now empty plate*) You know what? I *am* curious, but this year, it's your decision, Millie. Surprise me! I'm sure you'll make something we'll all be proud to wear. (*pats Millie's hand and stands up*) Okay, I'm going to go watch the game.

24 MILLIE: Sure, Papi.

25 (*Papi exits the kitchen.*)

26 MILLIE: (*to Miguel*) I sure hope he likes the new design. (*Millie bites her lip.*)



Stop & Discuss

How does Papi show that he trusts Millie?

Underline the details that show he trusts her. Discuss with a partner.



Analyze Elements of Plays

To understand the characters and plot in a play, think about what you learn from each element.

- The **plot** is the sequence of events in the play.

Reread/Think

Reread Act Two of *Proud to Be an Álvarez*. Answer the questions in the chart. Then identify the play elements and the lines you used to understand the characters and plot.

Questions and Answers About Act Two	Play Elements Used
What is Miguel like as a brother?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene _____ • Stage Directions, Line(s) _____ • Dialogue, Line(s) _____
What do Millie and Miguel think of the new design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene _____ • Stage Directions, Line(s) _____ • Dialogue, Line(s) _____
What is Millie's opinion of anchovies? Who feels differently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene _____ • Stage Directions, Line(s) _____ • Dialogue, Line(s) _____
How does Millie feel when Papi does not look at her design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene _____ • Stage Directions, Line(s) _____ • Dialogue, Line(s) _____





Proud to Be an ÁLVAREZ

ACT THREE

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- 1 Setting:** The local park, one week later
- 2 Scene 1:** *Papi is setting trays of food on a table. Two cousins stand on ladders near a **pavilion**. They are hanging a banner that says “ÁLVAREZ FAMILY REUNION.” Mami guides them, trying to get the banner straight.*
- 3 MAMI:** *(sighing)* You know what? Forget it. It looks great.
- 4 PAPI:** *(approaching Mami)* Have you seen Millie? I’m looking for the shirts.
- 5 MAMI:** She’s helping Miguel unload the car.
- 6** *(Millie and Miguel appear, carrying large boxes.)*
- 7 PAPI:** *(to Millie)* The moment we’ve all been waiting for!
- 8 MILLIE:** *(Millie smiles nervously as she sets a box down and opens it.)* I didn’t get shirts this year, Papi. I thought we could do something different.
- 9 PAPI:** *(looking at the box)* No shirts?
- 10 MILLIE:** *(Millie holds up a baseball cap. It has an “A” printed on it in swirling colors.)* Remember Abuelo had that hat he wore all the time? I figured this would honor him and celebrate our family, too. It doesn’t say our whole name, but we all know what the “A” stands for.
- 11 MAMI:** *(taking a hat from the box)* Nice! It gives the Álvarez family reunion a whole new look.
- 12** *(Miguel puts on a cap and proudly slings his arm across Millie’s shoulders. Miguel, Millie, and Mami all look at Papi.)*

pavilion = a building with open sides



TRANSLATIONS

¡Perfecto! = perfect

¡Qué bonita! = how pretty

¡Ahora todos juntos! =
Now all together!

13 (*Papi looks surprised. He is quiet for a moment. Then his mouth curves into a big smile.*)

14 PAPI: Abuelo would be proud, *mija*. I couldn't have done a better job myself.

15 (*Millie hugs Papi.*)

16 MIGUEL: Admit it, Pop. It's much better than a shirt. (*He gives Millie a high-five.*)

17 (*Just then, Luis and Abuelita join them.*)

18 PAPI: (*eagerly*) Show them the hat, Millie!

19 MILLIE: It's our first ever Álvarez family reunion hat. I made the design.

20 LUIS: *¡Perfecto!* (*Luis takes two hats and gives one to Abuelita.*) It's great for a sunny day. And we have enough reunion shirts to last a couple lifetimes.

21 ABUELITA: *¡Qué bonita!* (*She hugs Millie.*)

22 MIGUEL: (*whispers to Millie as more people arrive*) Your hats are a hit, Mil. Everyone is putting them on.

23 (*Later that evening, everyone is wearing a reunion hat as they eat, talk, and dance to salsa music. Papi claps to gather the family into a circle.*)

24 PAPI: (*loudly*) *¡Ahora todos juntos! Uno, dos, tres . . .*

25 EVERYONE: PROUD TO BE AN ÁLVAREZ!!!



Respond to Text

Reread/Think

Reread *Proud to Be an Álvarez*, Act Three. Choose the best response to each question.

1. Which of the following is an important part of the plot in Act Three?
 - A. Papi worries about the design for the shirts for the reunion.
 - B. Millie reveals her creation at the reunion.
 - C. Millie is embarrassed by the tradition of the family reunion.
 - D. Papi salsa-dances at the family reunion.
2. What information is found in line 2 of Act Three?
 - A. the cast of characters
 - B. the setting of the play
 - C. the scene description
 - D. the actors' words
3. What does the information in line 12 reveal about the characters?
 - A. They are happy to be at the reunion.
 - B. They want to see what Papi thinks.
 - C. They do not like the hats.
 - D. They do not care what Papi thinks.
4. What is the meaning of the word *honor* as it is used in line 10?
 - A. to pay respect to
 - B. to live up to
 - C. to care about
 - D. to judge



Reread/Think

5. Why is Millie nervous in Act Three?

- A.** She has not seen Abuelita in a long time.
- B.** She thinks Papi brought pizza with anchovies.
- C.** She is unsure if her family will like the hats she ordered.
- D.** She is worried that Abuelita will be wearing a sports jersey.

Write

Explain how Millie and her family feel as they stand together in a circle at the end of Act Three. How do you know the different characters' thoughts and feelings? Use at least three details from the text in your response.

[illegible]

WRITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ I described how different characters feel at the end of Act Three.
- ☐ I explained how I know the characters' thoughts and feelings.
- ☐ I used at least three details from the text.
- ☐ I used complete sentences.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.



Respond to the Focus Question

How and why do people change traditions?

Reread/Think

Reread Act Two, lines 2–8, of *Proud to Be an Álvarez*. Then answer the question below, using details from the play to support your response.

What changes did Millie bring to the family reunion tradition? _____

Talk

Think back to the tradition you shared in Session 1. Has anyone added to your tradition over time? Can you think of any ways to add to your tradition?

One way my family's tradition has changed over time is ____.

One way that I might add to my family's tradition would be ____.

Write

Describe a change you would like to make to a family tradition. How would you change the tradition? Why do you think the change is a good idea? Use details from *Proud to Be an Álvarez* to help you come up with ideas.