Global Book Bag

Title: Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras
Author: Duncan Tonatiuh
Grade Levels: 2-5
Global Competence: Analyze cultural influences, connections, and contexts

Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras tells the story of how and why Jose´ Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada (1852-1913) created the calaveras, or skeletons that perform activities. Readers also learn the importance of the calaveras to the holiday Day of the Dead, or El Dia de Muertos. The book begins with a mini biography of Jose´ Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada, and then tells about the importance of the calaveras to the holiday El Dia de Muertos. After reading and discussing the elements of this story, students will learn some of the culture and history of Mexico through this Mexican artist and Mexican holiday known as Day of the Dead.

Bag Contents:
- Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras
- Before, During and After Reading Questions
- Map of Mexico
- Posada’s Calavera Journal
- Photos of Dia de Muertos

Directions:
1. Read the book, Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras, together. Questions are available if you would like to use them before reading, while reading the book together, or after reading the book. See the paper with Before, During and After Reading Questions.

2. Choose 2 out of 3 activities below or if you are really inspired, you can do all three! All activities are completed in Posada’s Calavera Journal. You can write directly in the journal or you can glue or staple your work into the journal.

Activity 1: Literary Calaveras
   a. Create your own Literary Calaveras in a modern setting. If you need inspiration, look at pages 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 31 or use the photos and map for ideas. Look on pages 34-35 where the author has drawn his interpretations of modern calaveras.
   b. Write a poem to go with your calavera.
Activity 2: Write at least one paragraph to answer these questions.
   a. What did you learn from the book?
   b. What does the book make you want to learn more about?

Activity 3: Interview Don Lupe
   a. Imagine you get to interview Don Lupe Posada. Create 5-10 questions to ask him.

Extended Learning:
1. Watch the video recording of “Lunchtime Hangout with Author/Illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh” from his home in Mexico. The author shares about this book and others he has written and illustrated. He also discusses how he became a writer and explains his perspective on receiving awards and recognition for his books.
   http://latinas4latinolit.org/2015/07/lunchtime-author-google-hangout-with-authorillustrator-duncan-tonatiuh/

2. Read an article about the author, Duncan Tonatiuh. The author describes his inspiration and desire for Latino children to have books that reflect their heritage and experiences.

3. Learn more about author Duncan Tonatiuh through this five-question interview.
   http://www.hbook.com/2015/10/authors-illustrators/five-questions-for-duncan-tonatiuh/#

4. Learn more about the life of José Guadalupe Posada from this video and collection of prints.
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDYOoNnpraw
   http://www.posada-art-foundation.com/

5. Discuss what it means to “analyze cultural influences, connections, and contexts.”

Notes for parents: The back of the book contains the Author’s notes on the Mexican holiday El Dia de Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, as well as a glossary of terms. If this holiday is new to you, you may be interested in reading this section to familiarized yourself with the holiday.
Before, During and After Reading Questions
for
Funny Bones: Posada and his Day of the Dead Calaveras

**Note to Readers:** These questions can help you understand the story. You do not need to ask or answer all of the questions. You may want to choose two or three from each section. These questions can make reading fun and lead to a great conversation.

**Note to Parents/Guardians:** Ask your child to explain why he or she thinks that is the answer and to find evidence in the book to support explanations in order to support comprehension.

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<tr>
<th>Before reading:</th>
<th>During reading:</th>
<th>After reading:</th>
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<tr>
<td>From the illustrations on the cover and the book title, what do you think this book will be about?</td>
<td>Do you think Don Lupe had a supportive family? Tell me why you think so. Can you find evidence in the book to support your answer? (pp. 4-5)</td>
<td>Who is José Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada and where is he from?</td>
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<td>What is a biography?</td>
<td>What was Don Lupe passionate about? (pp. 6-7)</td>
<td>What makes José Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada special or unique?</td>
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<td>Do you know anything about José Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada?</td>
<td>Can you explain the traditions for Day of the Dead/Día de Muertos? (pp. 14, 15 &amp; 20)</td>
<td>How did his country and Mexico City change during Don Lupe’s lifetime?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you heard of Day of the Dead? If so, what do you know about it?</td>
<td>How did his country and Mexico City change during Don Lupe’s lifetime? (pp. 24-29)</td>
<td>Why do you think the author Duncan Tonatuih chose to write about him?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you heard of calaveras? If so, what do you know about them?</td>
<td>What are literary calaveras and why are they important? (pp. 16-22)</td>
<td>What is Day of the Dead/El Día de los Muertos? What culture does it represent?</td>
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*If the reader does not know about José Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada, Day of the Dead, or Calaveras, say that it’s not a problem. Say, “Let’s read and find out.”*