

Teacher Read-Aloud

Step 1 Introduce the Text

Tell students that they will be listening to a text you will read aloud about Carmen Lomas Garza, a Chicana artist who shares her life story through her art.

- **Genre Study** Tell students that they will be listening to a biography. Remind them that a biography is the story of a real person’s life written by another person. Biographies describe people’s importance to the world and explain why they are famous.
- **Set a Purpose** Have students set a purpose for listening, such as listening to find out who Carmen Lomas Garza is, what her art is like, and why she is important to learn about.
- **Model Fluency** Tell students to listen to how you read aloud at an appropriate rate with natural phrasing, and intonation.
- **Listen and Comprehend** Use the **ACTIVE LISTENING** strategy. Read the text aloud, pausing occasionally to ask the questions in the margins. Review the meanings of the Quick Teach Words in context in order to build background knowledge.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Listen to fluent reading.
- Set a purpose for listening.
- **Language** Develop newly acquired language structures.

QUICK TEACH WORDS

To help students build background knowledge for *CARMEN LOMAS GARZA: Bringing Memories to Life*, provide these student-friendly explanations for the following vocabulary words in the text.

- **degrees** Degrees are high awards given by colleges to students who have successfully completed courses of study.
- **diligently** If you do something diligently, you do it with care and perseverance.
- **customs** Customs are the long-established habits or traditions of a society.
- **exhibited** If you exhibited something, you displayed it to the public for interest or instruction.

SPANISH COGNATES

- **exhibit** *exhibir*



ENGLISH LEARNER SUPPORT: Support Comprehension

SUBSTANTIAL

Have students visualize a scene from their lives. *What do you see?*

MODERATE

Have students create drawings that show a scene from their lives.

LIGHT

Have students create drawings that show a scene from their lives. Have them explain what they drew.

READ-ALOUD TEXT

CARMEN LOMAS GARZA: Bringing Memories to Life

by CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

Carmen Lomas Garza is a Chicana artist. Through her art, she shares her memories of family and friends living and working together in their community. Above all, her art reflects her great pride in her Chicano, or Mexican-American, heritage and culture.

Early Life

Carmen Lomas Garza was born in Kingsville, Texas, in 1948. When she was thirteen years old, Carmen decided to become an artist like her mother. She read books about art and taught herself how to draw. Every day, she practiced by drawing pictures of her family, her friends, and her cats. She even drew pictures of household objects! **A**

Becoming an Artist

Education was very important to Carmen's parents, and they insisted that their five children go to college. They supported Carmen's decision to become an artist; however, they also wanted her to study teaching. She graduated from college in 1972 and went on to earn two advanced **degrees** in art and education.

After moving to San Francisco, California, in 1976, Carmen Lomas Garza worked **diligently** for five years at an artists' gallery and studio in the Latino community. Since 1981, she has worked full-time as an artist. She moved to her current art studio in San Francisco in 1985. **B**



A What is the subject of Carmen Lomas Garza's art? (She creates art that shows members of her community working and living together.) **DOK 1**

How did she show an early interest in art? (She wanted to be an artist like her mother; she practiced drawing what she saw around her.) **DOK 2**

B Paraphrase the author's explanation for why Carmen studied teaching. (Her parents valued education; they wanted her to study teaching as well as art.) **DOK 1**

How might her work from 1976–1981 have changed Carmen's life? (Her work at an artist's gallery in the Latino community probably influenced how her art reflected that topic later.) **DOK 2**

READ-ALoud TEXT, *continued*

Art That Tells a Story

Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork tells personal stories about her Chicano **customs**, family history, and shared community events. She developed her art in response to the Chicano movement of the late 1960s and 1970s. During this time, people worked to achieve civil, political, and educational rights for Mexican Americans. Mexican Americans can see themselves and their customs represented in Carmen's stories and art. Carmen also shares her heritage with people from other cultures. ㉓

Awards and Exhibits

Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork is **exhibited** in major museums across the United States. In 2003, the Austin Children's Museum in Austin, Texas, held a special exhibition of her art. For five years, this art show traveled to other children's museums in the United States.

Throughout her career, Carmen has won many important awards. These awards honor her work as a painter, printmaker, and children's book author. In 2007, she received the greatest honor of all. A new primary school in East Los Angeles, California, was named after her! Most of the 200 students who attend Garza Primary School are Mexican Americans. ㉔

Children's Books

Carmen Lomas Garza has written and illustrated four award-winning children's books. They are read by school children across the United States. *In My Family* is a picture book with stories told in English and Spanish. Each of the thirteen colorful paintings shows a different event from Carmen's childhood. The book *Magic Windows* is also written in Spanish and English, and Carmen illustrated it with cutouts by using a craft knife to create the exciting images.

Carmen Lomas Garza's amazing artwork comes from her roots in the Chicano community. Each work of art is a bridge that links these roots to the rest of the world. Sharing her art has helped Carmen bring her memories to life. ㉕

C How was Carmen's artwork influenced by political events? (She created her artwork in response to the Chicano movement of the late 1960s and 1970s.) **DOK 1**

D How do you know that Carmen's artwork has been viewed by children all around the country? (An exhibition of her art traveled to children's museums around the United States.) **DOK 2**

E How do Carmen's children's books address the needs of bilingual students? (The stories are written in Spanish and English.)

What do the illustrations in the book *In My Family* portray? (They portray events from Carmen's childhood.) **DOK 1**

