

LUCKY LUNA

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

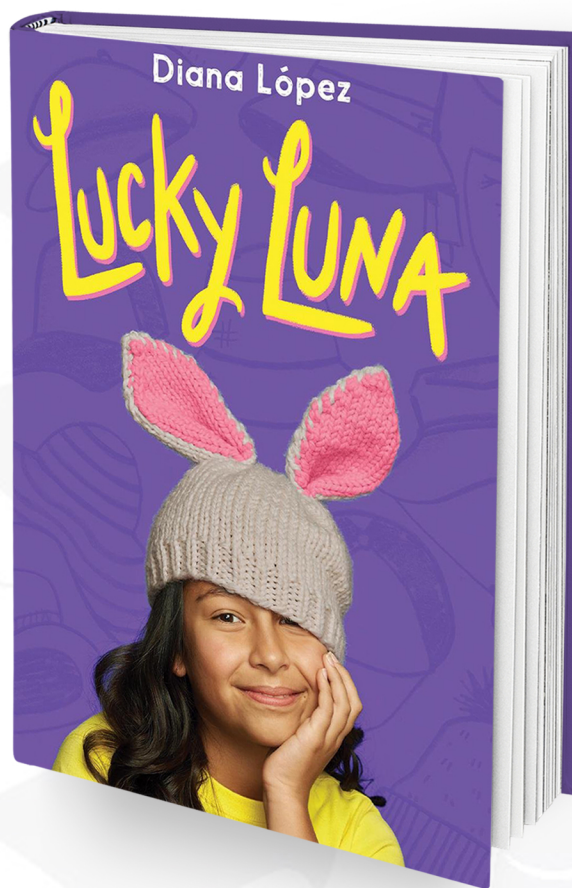
by Diana López

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Family Life

Hispanic & Latino
Heritage

Ages 8-12
Grades 3-7



"Sweetly poignant . . . Luna is a great character for young readers who feel like they can't catch a break or maybe don't fit in all the time. A good multicultural addition to any library or classroom." – [Booklist](#)

"Lopez depicts a modern-day Latina who embraces her culture even if she is still learning about it and doesn't speak Spanish. Readers will find themselves chuckling at the situations Luna gets herself into and smiling at a satisfying ending." – [School Library Journal](#)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Luna has a very large extended family, so it makes sense that she would enjoy some of her cousins but feel annoyed by others. Which cousin does she like the most and which the least? How do her feelings change as she continues to interact with them?
2. When Luna locks Claudia in the restroom, she's grounded from wearing hats for a whole month. Do you think this punishment is fair? Explain why or why not.
3. Lots of people offer advice for Luna. Find examples of good advice and bad advice. In your opinion, who offers the most helpful advice and who offers the least helpful? Explain your answers.
4. Luna has a lot of cousins, but she also has a lot of friends. In what ways are her friendships similar to and different from her relationships with her cousins?
5. At one point in the book, Luna says that she sees some things the American way and some things the Mexican way. Find examples of how the Mexican culture is portrayed in the story.
6. Luna seems very confident, but sometimes, she feels insecure or embarrassed. What makes her feel this way and how is she able to overcome her insecurities?
7. Luna's mother has a lot of superstitions. What is a superstition? Do some research and look up examples from different cultures. Then share your findings with the class.

PERSONAL RESPONSES TO THE BOOK

1. Luna loves hats and she has quite a collection. Is there an object that you like to collect? If so, what is it? Describe your collection, and if possible, bring one or two items for show and tell.
2. Luna shares the story of her name. What is the story behind your name?
3. The novel is called LUCKY LUNA, and Luna often describes events as examples of good or bad luck. Share a time when you experienced bad luck and a time when you experienced good luck.
4. The novel opens and closes with a big family gathering. What types of events bring your family together? Compare/contrast your experiences with Luna's.

You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your primas.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CREATIVE WRITING

1. Luna, Mabel, and John-John have to write a skit for their Spanish class. Try writing a skit in a different language. It can be in Spanish or any other language that you are studying.
2. Mabel writes for the school newsletter, and after interviewing Claudia, she writes a profile. Interview someone from your school and write a profile that shares information about their interests and background.
3. The back of the book has a glossary of chapter titles. Pick one and use it as a title for your own creative work. You can write a story, poem, or play based on the title you choose.

IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS

For each of the quotations below, explain 1) the meaning of the quotation in your own words 2) why the character says this 3) what the quotation says about people or life in general 4) whether you agree or disagree with the idea the quotation presents.

1. Luna's mom (page 26): "Friends come and go, but cousins are forever."
2. Luna (page 77): "A long time ago, someone drew stick figures on the back of the seat in front of us. All of the figures have circles for heads, dots for eyes, and straight lines for arms and legs. All the figures look alike, so they probably never get teased. I can't stop staring at them and wishing that I lived in a stick-figure world where everybody looked the same."
3. John-John (page 104): "I guess we'll need hope, too. We don't want to lose the will to survive. We might just give ourselves to the zombies if that happens."
4. Luna (page 114): "I wish the real world did have magic. Sure, I might use it to turn my primas into mosquitos when I get mad, but I'd do nice things, too—like turn all carrots into carrot cake and all bananas into banana bread. Think of how sweet the world could be."
5. Luna (page 177): "My parents, Abuela, my aunts, my uncles, and especially my primas—all of us are swaying and tapping our feet to the rhythm, keeping perfect time with the music and with one another. That's what 'blood is thicker than water' really means. It's not about having the same noses or hair color or grandparents. It's about having the same hearts."

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Luna Ramos has more cousins than she can count, and even though her mom says that makes her lucky, Luna knows that every time she gets in trouble, one of her primas is responsible.

But when Luna locks her know-it-all cousin Claudia in the bathroom at their cousin's quinceañera, Luna has no one to blame but herself. Her punishment? No hats for a whole month—which is a big deal because Luna's always been embarrassed by her hair, and hats make her feel more comfortable.

To make things even worse, Claudia is transferring to her school, and now she'll have a chance to tattle on Luna even more than she already does! Luna's grandmother offers some sage advice, but since it's in Spanish, Luna gets it all wrong, and when the kids at school begin making fun of Claudia, Luna must decide what matters more: family or her reputation.

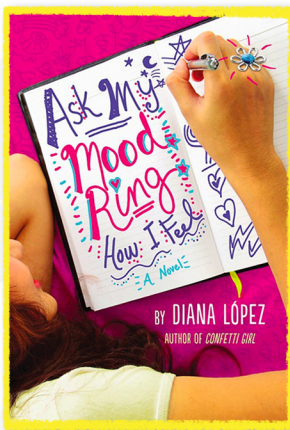
In this funny and page-turning story, award-winning author Diana López reminds us what it means to be a friend and a prima, and how to accept the things that make us truly unique.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diana López is the award-winning author of *Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel*, *Confetti Girl*, *Nothing Up My Sleeve*, and most recently, *COCO: A Story about Music, Shoes, and Family*. She teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Houston in Victoria, Texas. For more information about Diana and her books, visit her online at dianalopezbooks.com.



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