



# Read Aloud Guide

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**Title:** *What Can You Do With a Paleta? / Que Puedes Hacer con una Paleta?* By Carmen Tafolla, illustrated by Magaly Morales

**Best for:** TK-2nd grade

**Summary:** As she strolls through her *barrio*, a young girl introduces readers to the frozen, fruit-flavored treat that thrills Mexican and Mexican-American children. Create a masterpiece, make tough choices (strawberry or coconut?), or cool off on a warm summer's day - there's so much to do with a *paleta*!

**Why we chose this book:** We love that this book features amazing illustrations and a fun story that is familiar to many readers. We also love that the book is in both English and Spanish so readers can read in either language, or switch back and forth.

**Notes:** Use the pronunciation guide/glossary in the back of the book before reading to help with unfamiliar words.

**Central themes:** Children's city life, Mexican heritage, family and community

**Introducing the book:** You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:  
*"This book is about a young girl named Maya who loves paletas! Paletas are popsicles. Who here likes to eat popsicles? What's your favorite flavor?"*

**During reading:** Stop to ask questions - children can respond to the whole group or talk to a partner

*p. 1-2 "Where do you think this kid and family live? Are they in the US or another country? Why? What do you see in the pictures that lets you know?"*

*P.15-16 "Would you ever use your paleta to paint? Why or why not?"*

*P.19-20 "Who would you give a paleta to?"*

**After Reading:** Debrief with students

*"What are some things Maya loves about her barrio/neighborhood?"*

*"What are some things you like about your barrio/neighborhood?"*

*"What are some things Maya does with her paleta?"*

*"What is Maya's favorite thing to do with a paleta?"*