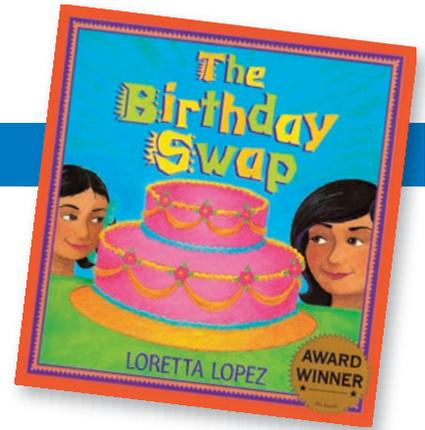


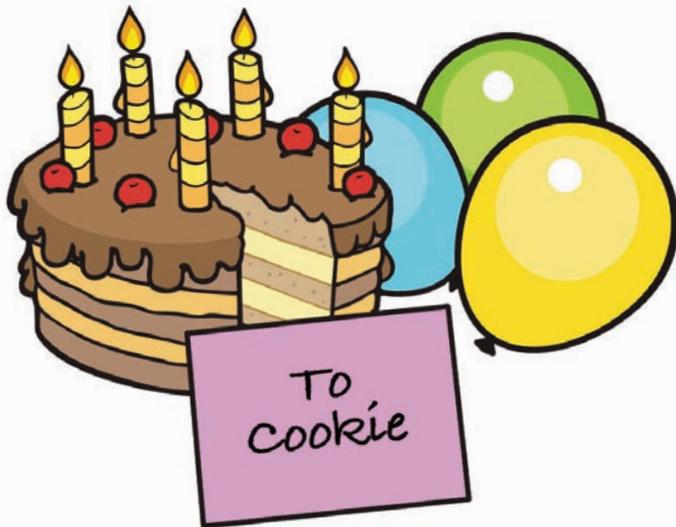
The Birthday Swap

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS



WRITING PROMPTS

- ◆ With whom would you want to swap birthdays? Why?
- ◆ Describe a gift you think Lori could give to Cookie when she celebrates her birthday in December. Why would it be good for Cookie? Use clues from the book!
- ◆ Create a pretend birthday invitation to a surprise birthday party for a friend.
- ◆ Pretend you are Lori and write a thank you letter to Cookie for the swap.



ART

Materials: balloon, newspaper, flour, water, paint, paint brushes, streamers

Create a class piñata!

Day 1: Blow up balloon. Mix 1 part water and 2 parts flour; stir until mixture looks like thick glue. Dip strips of newspaper in mixture. Cover balloon with 2 layers of strips. Leave a hole at the top for candy. Let dry.

Day 2: Repeat process.

Day 3: Paint piñata bright colors. Add streamers. Pop balloon. Put candy inside piñata and cover hole with tissue paper. Hang it up and let kids take turns whacking it to get the candy out!

Save the piñata as a special treat for a job well done one day.

MATH

Find out when students' birthdays occur. Create a class graph. Discuss which month has the most, fewest, most girls/boys, fewest girls/boys, etc.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Locate Mexico on a map. Lori lives in a border town and goes back and forth between the US and Mexico. Have students answer the following:

- ◆ What language is spoken most in Mexico?
- ◆ What are some Mexican holidays?
- ◆ What are some cultural traditions?
- ◆ For what is Mexico famous?
- ◆ Who are some important Mexican authors, artists, athletes or leaders?

