

# **No Dogs Allowed!**

K-3

Written by Sonia Manzano

Illustrated by Jon J Muth

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Spoken Arts - 9701

## ***Story Summary***

Iris and her family live in the Bronx, a part of New York City. They decide to go to the lake in the Enchanted State Park for the day. What a trip it is as each friend and family member packs all of the things they will need for the day. Then there is the dog, El Exigente, who is good at sleeping and goes along with the family for their special day. They have a big surprise when they arrive at Enchanted Lake and see a sign that says ***No Dogs Allowed!*** Read on and see what the family does about this problem!

## ***Objectives***

1. The children will develop an understanding of the different strengths that individuals possess.
2. The children will develop an understanding that cooperation from all of the group members is a good way to solve a problem.

## ***Before viewing the video***

Ask the class if they have seen Sesame Street on TV. The author of this book is the woman they know as Maria on Sesame Street. This is a story about Iris and her family who live in the Bronx, which is part of New York City. The people in Iris' family have special names that tell us something about them. You will meet these people and Iris' dog, El Exigente, in this story. The family is about to go out for a day to the Enchanted State Park. Think about what you would take with you if your family went on such a trip! Think about the title of this story as you watch the video. What kind of a day did El Exigente have in this park that did not allow dogs?

## ***Questions to ask after viewing the video***

1. How did Mami the Busy and Papi the Clever get their names?
2. How did El Exigente get his name?
3. Iris' sister, Shorty, does not want El Exigente to come along. Why not?
4. Look at the illustration of all of the things that are being brought to the park for the day. What would you bring for a day out with your family?
5. How did the friends and family pass the time when the car broke down?
6. Why was everyone disappointed when they read the enchanted sign?
7. When Papi yelled *Callensi!* In Spanish, what was he asking everyone to do?
8. What was happening while the family figured out what to do?

9. What kinds of things did El Exigente get to do while the family took turns staying with him?
10. Who do you think had the best time at the end of the day? Why?

**Activities**

1. Have each child select a character from the book they especially liked. Ask them to tell what they liked about this person. Encourage a dialog among the children as they assume the personality of their character.
2. Ask each child to write a story about what they see as their strengths and strengths of family members. Give each person a special name, just as this was done in ***No Dogs Allowed!***
3. Have the class work in cooperative groups to make paper bag puppets of the different characters in the story. Have them re-tell the story using the puppets. Encourage them to verbalize the contributions each group member made to the presentation.
4. Create a collage for a bulletin board. Based upon *No Dogs Allowed*, have each child add items that they would bring on their imaginary trip to the lake. Have each child write a sentence describing what they would bring and add it to the bulletin board.