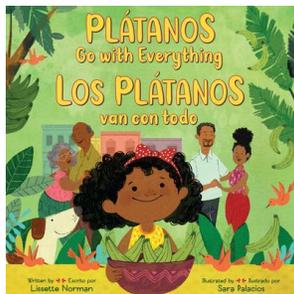


## Book Guide

### Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program



<b>Book Title:</b>	Plátanos Go with Everything / Los plátanos van con todo
<b>Author:</b>	Lissette Norman
<b>Illustrator:</b>	Sara Palacios

<b>Recommended Audience</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <sup>th</sup>
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#### Length of Time to Read:

15-25 minutes

#### Summary:

Yesenia lives in New York with her immigrant family from the Dominican Republic. Yesenia loves plantains! One day while helping Mom in the kitchen, Yesenia asks, “Why do Dominicans love plantains so much?” Mom very poetically replies, “Plantains go with everything...especially with love!” This story celebrates culture, family, and traditions.

#### Before Reading (Create Interest):

Ask your listeners, “Do you have a favorite food that your family prepares? For me, it is \_\_\_\_\_.” Listen to student responses and dedicate up to five minutes to this share-out. After your students have shared, tell them, “For Yesenia, it is plantains! Are you familiar with plantains? They are like bananas, but they are cooked – sometimes fried, sometimes boiled, sometimes sweet and sometimes savory.”

#### During Reading (Discussion/Questions):

Pause on the page that begins with, “Plátanos are like a fiesta.” The author mentions that they sing a song that goes, “Kulikitaka ti.” **Kulikitaka** is a very popular merengue song by Grammy award-winning Dominican artist **Toño Rosario**. Perhaps some of your students are familiar with the song. If not, use this link to listen to the song with them: <https://bit.ly/kulikitaka>

#### After Reading:

In the book, Yesenia asks Mami, “Why do Dominicans love plátanos so much?” Mami responds, “Because they remind us of home, Yesenia.” Ask your listeners: What reminds you of home?



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#### **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) **Connection:**

##### **I Am From Poetry Activity (Grades K-2)**

###### **Materials:**

Example “I Am From” poem in color (included)

One copy per student of the black-and-white “I Am From” handout (included)

Pencils and colorful crayons, markers, or colored pencils

###### **Instructions:**

- 1) Ask your students to think about the question at the end of the reading: **“What reminds you of home?”** It can be a food, an object, or a game.
- 2) Share the example (included) with students.
- 3) Now students can begin working on their own poem. *Non-writers can draw instead of write.*
- 4) Decorate the border of your poem.

##### **Cinquain Poem Activity (Grades 3-5)**

###### **Materials:**

“Cinquain Poem” instructions and example poem in color (included)

One copy per student of the black-and-white “Cinquain Poem” handout (included)

Pencils and colorful crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Optional: Construction paper and scissors

###### **Instructions:**

- 1) Ask your students to think about the question at the end of the reading: **“What reminds you of home?”** It can be a food, an object, or a game.
- 2) Explain that since Lissette Norman’s writing has a poetic style, they will be learning how to write a short poem called Cinquain (pronounced sin-kane). This poem has 5 lines and when written it is kite-shaped. Norman makes a reference to kites in her book, so the cinquain is a perfect poem for this reason.
- 3) Refer to the color copy of the Cinquain Poem. Share the example poem and review the rules with students.
- 4) Spend some time counting syllables with students to check for understanding.
- 5) Give students dedicated work time. Invite them to share their finished poem with the group.
- 6) After a student shares their poem, have students energetically shout, *“Kulikitaka ti Kulikitaka ta!”* as a cheer of encouragement.
- 7) **OPTIONAL:** If time and resources allow, have students trace out a kite shape on construction paper, cut it out, and copy their poem onto their kite. Color and decorate.

#### **Ideas for younger or older children**

Watch this read-aloud video of the book with younger students: <https://bit.ly/platanosreadaloud>

All ages will enjoy listening to the song “Kulikitaka” by Toño Rosario: <https://bit.ly/kulikitaka>

#### **Additional Notes:**

