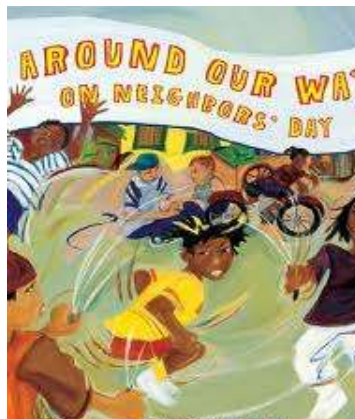


A Teacher's Activity Guide for  
*Around Our Way on  
Neighbors' Day*

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Teacher's Guide written by Debbie Gonzales

## A Table of Contents

*The activities in this guide are designed to complement the text and illustrations in an artistic, creative, and sensorial way. Each project relates to the poetic nature of Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day!*

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## Discussion Questions

1. The word **community** is defined as either a group of people living in the same place or a group of people sharing common interests, actively participating in one another's lives. Which definition best suits the community featured in *Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day*? Do the people pictured in this book simply live near one another, or do they share common interests and joy with one another? Explain your answer.
2. The word **diverse** means something is made up of different characteristics. A diverse community is made up of different types of people who do different types of things. Is the neighborhood featured in this story a diverse community? Are the people different than one another? In what way or ways? What about the foods that they eat? The ways that they dress? The games that they play? Is your community diverse?
3. The word **vibrant** defines something as being lively – full of energy, rhythm, and action. Do you think that the community featured in *Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day* is vibrant? Do you think the scenes illustrated in the book are active, full of energy, and lots of fun? Or are the scenes quiet, calm, and peaceful?
4. The word **helpful** means that someone is providing assistance to another person, that they are being useful. Are there examples of people being helpful in *Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day*? Can you find examples of helpful people? What are they doing? Why are they being helpful? Do you think being helpful is important to making a neighborhood a nice place to live? Are there some ways that you can be helpful?
5. A **friend** is someone who supports, helps, likes, and trusts another person. Can you find any examples of people acting like friends in this book? Who? What are they doing? Are they being helpful? Are they vibrant – full of energy, action and rhythm? Are they diverse – different kinds of people who enjoy doing different kinds of things? Do you think they are important to this community? Do the characters seem to share in the joy and happiness of each other's lives? How so?
6. In what ways is the community featured in this neighborhood like yours? In what ways is it different?
7. Describe your neighborhood and then go out and enjoy it!

*Blue sky, no clouds. Summer heat, side street.*

## Create a Community Map

Materials needed:

- Word labels on page 4
- Community Map on page 5
- Markers or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Tape or glue sticks

Procedure:

- Print Community Map found on page 5.
- Print word labels on page 4.
- Cut word labels out.
- Study the blank map and decide where each of the objects, people, or buildings should be located. On the green grass or in the gray street?
- Use markers or colored pencils to draw the objects, people, or buildings where you feel that they should be located.
- Tape or glue the word label near your drawing.

Word Labels:

Kids jump roping

Barbershop

Raven's mural

Kids playing football

Corner store

Men playing checkers

Ice cream truck

Lemonade stand

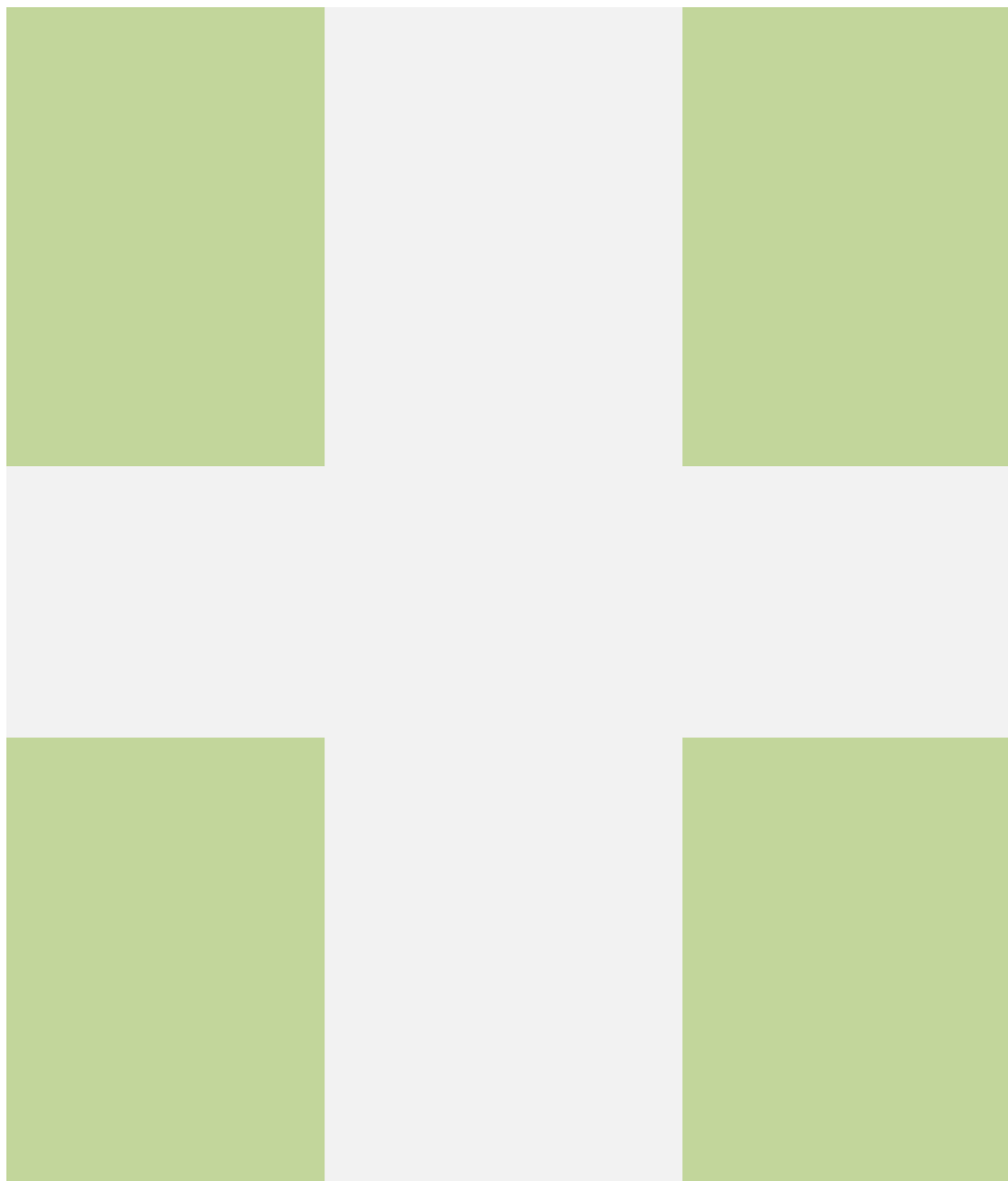
Basketball hoop

Bike riders

Skate boarders

You!

### Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day Community Map



*Look, here comes the ice-cream man! Holding money in our hands,  
We chase him down for frozen treats. Quick! Lick before it runs.*

## **Homemade Pudding Pops: A Kid-Friendly Recipe**

### Utensils:

- Plastic container with lid
- Liquid measuring cup
- Paper cups
- Popsicle sticks

### Ingredients:

- 1 small box of instant pudding, any flavor
- 2 cups milk

### Procedure:

- Put the small package of instant pudding into the shaker.
- Add the 2 cups of milk.
- Put top of container on tightly.
- Shake mixture 20 times.
- Pour mixture into paper cups.
- Place one Popsicle stick in each paper cup.
- Place Pudding Pop cups in freezer for at least 2 hours.
- Remove and enjoy!

*Cheese and noodles save the day  
Today around our way.*

## Marvelous Macaroni Bead Necklace

### Materials:

- Ziplock sandwich bags
- Food coloring
- Macaroni noodles
- Paper towels or layers of newspaper
- Rubbing alcohol
- Yarn



### Procedure:

- Spread layers of newspaper or paper towels flat on a table top.
- Grab a generous handful of macaroni. Place them in the sandwich bag.
- Squirt 8 or 9 hearty drops of food coloring on the noodles inside the bag.
- Place a capful of rubbing alcohol in with the macaroni and food coloring.
- Ziplock the bag securely.
- Saturate the macaroni with color by mixing the ingredients around inside the bag as pictured below.



Macaroni, food color, and rubbing alcohol in securely sealed bag.



Macaroni is saturated in color mixture

- Lay macaroni beads on newspaper or paper towel to dry.
- Repeat process with a variety of colors.
- Once macaroni beads have dried, string them on a piece of yarn.
- Make a necklace for everyone in the neighborhood!



Macaroni beads drying on paper towels.

*People come out to the street  
With the food we love to eat*

## **Scents of Our Neighborhood – Smelling Bottles**

### Materials:

- 6 small bottle (baby food jars work well)
- 6 cotton balls
- Water
- A pinch of:
  - A small bit of a raw onion
  - Garlic
  - Cinnamon
  - Vanilla extract
  - Lime juice
  - Chili powder
- A blind fold
- Waterproof marker

### Preparation:

- Open the 6 jar lids.
- Moisten cotton balls.
- Place a teaspoon of each ingredient in respective jar. One scent per jar.
- Place moistened cotton ball atop each ingredient.
- Secure jar lid on bottles.
- With waterproof marker, label scent contained in each jar.

### Procedure:

- Place blindfold on a partner.
- Open a jar and invite partner to smell it.
- Ask if they can identify the scent.
- Ask what type of food smells like this ingredient.
- Continue procedure until all scents have been discovered.



*That loud music blares,  
Hustle...bustle...salsa sway,  
Wild day, around our way.*

### **The Melody of Our Neighborhood**

Listed below are some suggested iTunes downloads depicting the rich sounds expressed in *Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day*. Perhaps you would like to create a playlist or burn a CD to play to further illustrate the richness of the community the author describes.

Good Morning	<i>Early Morning Birds</i> . Nature Sounds-Sounds of the Earth: BFI Digital, 2008.
Steel Drums	<i>Festival Steel Drums</i> . Caribbean Party Music –Jamaican: Autumn Hill Records, 2009.
Salsa	<i>Salsa</i> . Yuri Buenaventura: Mercury Records S. A., 2000.
Saxophone	<i>Messin With the Kid</i> . World Saxophone Quartet: Eklectra Entertainment Groups, 1990.
Laughter	<i>Laughter and Applause</i> . The Amazing Sound Effects of Crowds: Hot Ideas, 2009.
Late Night	<i>Late Night Forest Ambience</i> . Nature Walk (Nature Sound): Relaxation and Meditation, 2010.

## *Big bubbles ride the breeze*

### Monster Bubble Making

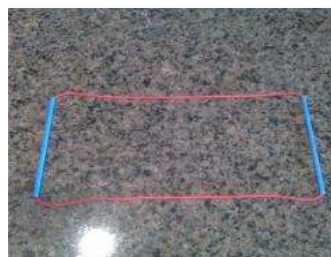
#### Supplies:

- Dawn dish detergent
- A small 3 ounce bottle of glycerin
- Plastic dish tub
- Water
- Two plastic drinking straws
- A long piece of yarn
- Bubble wands



#### Monster Bubble Wand Preparation:

- Cut a piece of yarn approximately 1 yard long.
- Thread yarn through both straws.
- Tie ends together.
- Monster Bubble Wand is complete.



#### Bubble Solution Preparation:

- Pour about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of Dawn into plastic dish pan.
- Pour about  $\frac{1}{2}$  bottle of glycerin into the tub.
- Slowly fill tub  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with warm water.
- Slowly blend ingredients together by carefully swishing your hand in the mix.
- Bubble solution is complete.

#### Monster Bubble Making Procedure:

- Submerge your Monster Bubble Wand in the solution.
- Take one straw in hand and s-l-o-w-l-y lift wand from the tub.
- Note: The solution should look like a piece of plastic wrap stretched between the straws and strings.
- Hold the wand like a flag and sway it in front of your body or let the wind make the Monster Bubble for you!

Wave to Raven working on  
Mural way up high.

## Mural Making

### Supplies:

- Long sheet of butcher paper
- Tempera paints
- Brushes
- Masking tape

### Procedure:

- Tape piece of butcher paper on a wall or a wooden fence.
- Paint to your heart's content.
- Paint
  - Your house
  - Your neighbors' house
  - Your street
  - Your pet
  - Your family
  - Things you like to do
  - Things you like to eat
  - Things you like to play
  - Make the mural your own version of *Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day!*



## Acknowledgments

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