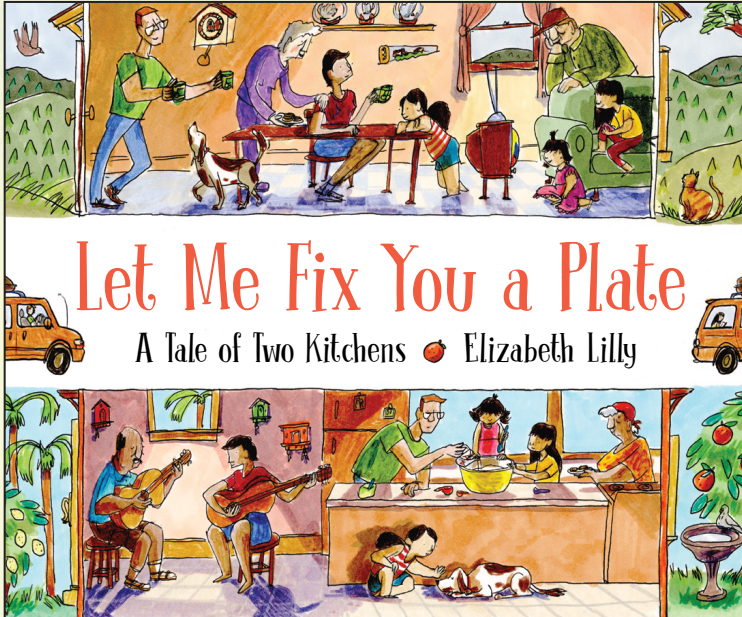


# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



## *Let Me Fix You a Plate: A Tale of Two Kitchens* by Elizabeth Lilly

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Whether you're settling in for a heaping plate of banana pudding or arepas and tostones, a good meal can always bring families together.

Elizabeth Lilly's tale of a joyous road trip, drawn from her own experience, is illustrated with quirky charm that captures all the warmth and love of her family's two distinct cultures.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take a close look at the first double-page spread. How does it reveal where the family is going? Note the direction the car is traveling. Explain how the car leads the reader to the next page. Describe the various landscapes the family sees on their trip.
- Look closely at the faces of the characters. How do the illustrations reveal how tired the family is after a long trip? Point out the facial expressions that reveal how happy they are to see the grandparents. Which illustrations show how the family feels when they have to leave?
- Study the title page of the book. Point out the girl telling the story. She appears to be daydreaming in class. What do you think is on her mind? Look at the three frames opposite the title page. How do these illustrations offer a hint about the girl's daydreams?
- Describe Mamaw and Papaw's house. Point out the things on the wall that you first saw in the first double-page spread. What do these items reveal about Mamaw and Papaw? Contrast the midnight kitchen with the morning kitchen. What do the girl's daddy and Papaw have in common?





- The family leaves West Virginia and travels to Abuela and Abuelo's house in Florida. Describe their house. Contrast Abuela and Abuelo with Mamaw and Papaw. How are they alike? How are they different? How do the items in the last double-page spread reflect Abuela and Abuelo's house?
- Look closely at the things on the wall of Mommy and Daddy's kitchen in the city. Which things represent Daddy's home in West Virginia and Mommy's Puerto Rican background?
- At the end of the trip, the girl falls asleep in the car. What is she dreaming? Point out Mamaw and Abuela in the illustration. Why are they major characters in her dream?
- The author uses figurative language to create certain images or pictures in the reader's mind. Personification gives human qualities to objects. Explain how the following quote is an example of personification: "the hot sticky air hugs us close" (p. 9). Simile is a figure of speech that compares two things using "like" or "as." Identify simile and personification in the following sentence: "Outside, our windows glow like gems seen by sleepy passing cars."
- Explain the title of the book. Why is it "A Tale of Two Kitchens"? Discuss how the visits with both sets of grandparents revolve around food. Back in the city, Mommy and Daddy cook breakfast together. How do they blend two cultures with the foods they prepare?

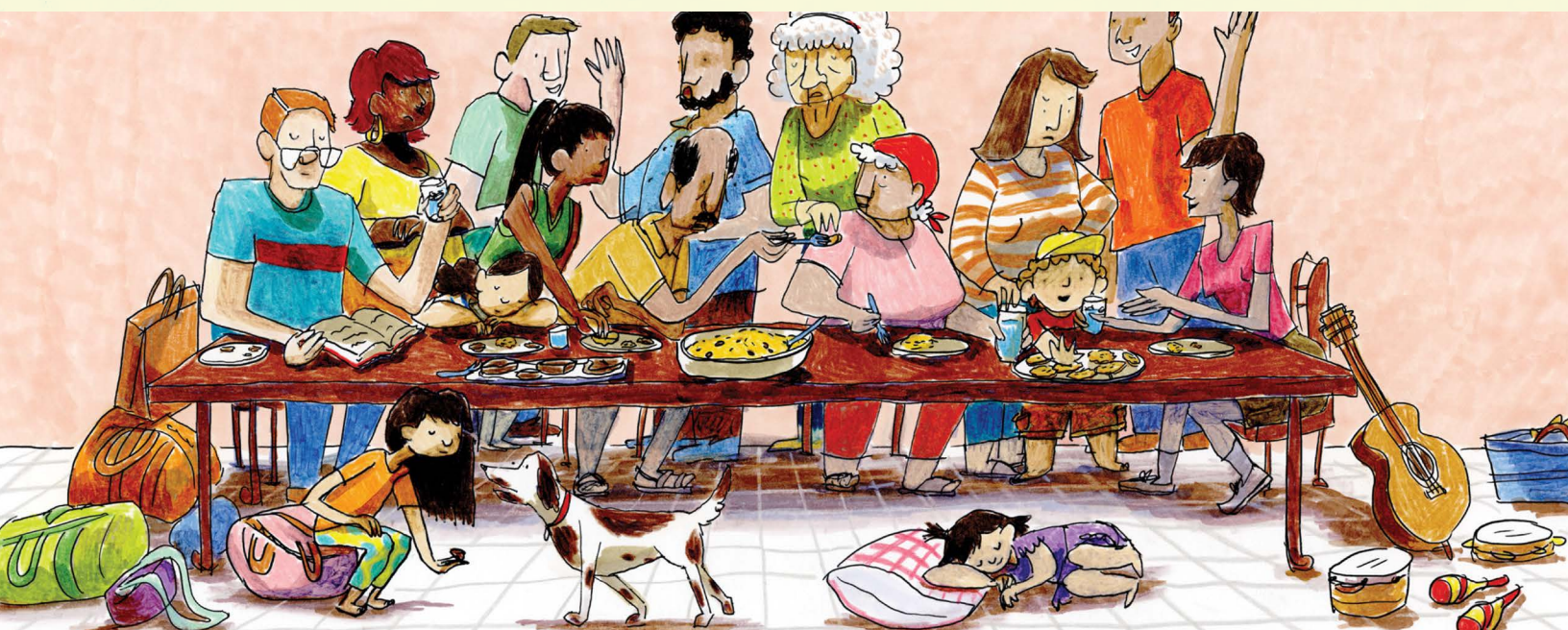
Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

## ABOUT THE CREATOR



photo credit: Mark Clennon

**Elizabeth Lilly** is an author-illustrator, animator, and graphic designer. Elizabeth was a reading, doodling daydreamer in high school, and, unsure of her path, went to architecture school at Virginia Tech for college. Her debut picture book, *Geraldine*, received three starred reviews. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.



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