

Building an Orchestra of Hope

How Favio Chavez Taught Children to Make Music from Trash



Author:
Carmen Oliver

Illustrator:
Luisa Uribe

Awards

Junior Library Guild, Gold Standard Selection, 2022
Bookstangang, Best of 2022 in Picture Book Biographies

Vocabulary

captivated, entice, beamed

Reviews

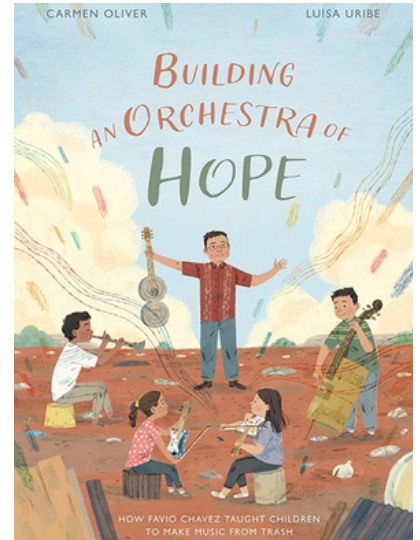
[Kirkus Reviews](#)

Summary

Based on an incredible true story, this picture book tells of how Favio Chavez, a music teacher, helped recyclers' children working in a landfill in Paraguay to make instruments and beautiful music from trash.

FAIR Standard

HM.K-2.5 I can speak about how cultures around the world use religion, art, philosophy, agriculture, industry, and trade to survive and thrive.



Discussion

1. Favio said, "The world sends us garbage. We send back music." What does this quote mean to you? What "garbage" do you see that you could transform into something beautiful?
2. How was Favio able to merge his two passions: music and recycling? What are two things you are passionate about? Brainstorm how you could bring the two together in a creative project.
3. The author writes, "The parents and their children had only been concerned about surviving the next day. But now they had hope in their hearts and dreams for a better tomorrow." How did music help the children and their families hope and dream?

Discussion

4. Cola sorted through heaps of trash in the landfill and brought home “treasures” which he turned into instruments for the kids. How do you think Cola feels knowing what his work and creativity has led to for the children of Cateura?

5. Read the “More About” section on the last two pages of this book. Knowing what the families experienced in their town of Cateura, what do you think was their proudest moment or accomplishment? How did they use their success to give back to their community?

Activities

1. Design a flier to advertise a concert for the orchestra. What would you write to encourage people to come and watch? How could you use the money from the concert to help support the children in the orchestra or the town of Cateura?

2. Create your own [instrument using recycled materials](#) such as bottles, cans or caps. Can you play your instrument alongside the orchestra? Listen to the music of the kids from the story, known as the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, play [here](#).

