



# Gustavo The Shy Ghost

Written and Illustrated by Flavia Z. Drago

*Gustavo The Shy Ghost* encourages children to be brave and reach out to make new friends. Gustavo is very shy, and very talented when it comes to his love of playing the violin. He decides to have a violin concert at the Day of the Dead party and invites all the monsters he would like to have as friends. The cheerfully spooky illustrations that you can look at over and over, and a message of being true to yourself make this a great read.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what that ghost is doing?

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words

- paranormal – very strange and not able to be explained by what scientists know about nature and the world
- shy – feeling nervous about meeting and talking to people
- terrifying – causing great fear
- brave – feeling or showing no fear: not afraid
- Day of the Dead – Mexican holiday where those who have died are remembered and celebrated with prayers and feasting
- concert – a public performance of music

- After:**
- What kinds of things did Gustavo enjoy doing?
  - What did he love to do most in the world?
  - What were some of the things that Gustavo was afraid of doing?
  - How was Gustavo brave? How did he let other’s see him?
  - What did his letter to the monsters say?
  - What was he afraid might happen the night of the concert?
  - What did happen on the night of the concert?



# DO

## Materials:

Copies of graphic for each student

Markers

Crayons

Optional: Glue, beads, sequins, feathers

Print off the graphic for each student and ask them to try and draw the missing side of the skull. Explain that symmetrical means balanced and can be thought of as 50/50 or a mirror image. If your students want to try and do this without using the graphic, provide them with a marker and paper. After students have completed their symmetrical drawing ask them to embellish and decorate their skulls as they would if they were joining in a Day of the Dead celebration.

