

Esquivel! Space-Age Sound Artist

By Susan Wood

Enjoy the Book Together

- What is the first sign that Juan is curious about music? What does his curiosity lead him to do? Discuss with your child how Juan's curiosity about music led to opportunities and a career.
- The author compares Juan to a painter who uses sound instead of paint, rather than just calling him a composer. Why does she make this comparison? What is she saying about Juan and his work? Discuss!
- On pages 10–11, there's an illustration of Juan with sounds all around him. What does this image show you about the way Juan works, and how he experiences the world?

Make Personal Connections

- Is there something you're great at that you've never studied with a teacher? If so, what is it? If not, what would you like to be great at? Share your answers with each other.
- Esquivel loves sounds of all kinds—he hears music in them, and they inspire him. What sounds affect you? What sounds make you *feel* something? What sounds make you remember something, or someone?

Literacy Tip

Often, a book is illustrated in a specific style for a specific reason. The illustrations in this book were inspired by ancient Mexican art. Together, read the illustrator's note at the back of the book to learn why he chose this style and what he hopes to accomplish by using it.

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Let's make some sound compositions of which Esquivel would be proud! Imagine you are Esquivel, and you have just been given your job as orchestra leader for the comedy show. Below are four scenarios. List the sounds you'd use to tell the story, and explain what they represent (the way the author does on pages 8–9 in the book).

Scenario	Sounds
<p>A laughing woman splashes around in the ocean with a bunch of seals.</p>	
<p>A crying boy tries to scrape his ice cream cone off the sidewalk while fighting off a flock of seagulls.</p>	
<p>A howling dog escapes his leash and joins a parade that is passing by.</p>	
<p>A tiny elf runs after a herd of elephants, trying to feed them peanuts that are spilling out of his pockets.</p>	