



RICK RIORDAN PRESENTS

SAL & GABI



By Carlos Hernandez

DECOR

To prepare for your Sal & Gabi event, use the book covers and Sal and Gabi's epic adventures as inspiration. Re-create bright and bold images by adding backdrops with the rich, vibrant colors of gold, turquoise, hot pink, yellow, and green to your space. Alternatively, swirls of gold will help readers get into the spirit of this multiverse adventure. For some extra Latin flavor, add maracas, bongo drums, and bright hibiscus flowers to finish out your space.

FOODS

A party is not complete without an assortment of snacks, and reaching through time to other universes is bound to leave your guests hungry! Cuban foods inspired by Sal & Gabi novels can offer readers an opportunity to celebrate the epic novel's worlds-colliding reading experience.

Cuban sweet and savory snacks and beverages to consider offering your guests:

- Empanadas
- Papas rellenas (Cuban potato balls)
- Cuban sandwiches
- Pollo frito (chicken nuggets or strips)
- Croquetas
- Tostones (fried plantain chips)
- Tropical fruits like bananas, plantains, guavas, mangoes, oranges, coconut, and pineapple
- Cookies in bold colors
- Churros
- Flan
- Ice cream with caramel, chocolate syrup, or fruit toppings
- Key lime pie
- Lemonade, guava nectar, orange juice, and tea

ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS TO START THE PARTY!

Kick off your Sal & Gabi event by using the following activities, crafts, and reproducibles to rally your partygoers into the spirit of this epic adventure.

GET INTO CHARACTER

Part of the magic of Miami and of Cuban American culture is the chance to extend your personality with costuming. Set up a wardrobe station stocked with costume elements, and encourage your partygoers to dress up to bring out their festive side. Participants will have great fun coupling this with a photo station, and the chance to explore their personalities will be enhanced by incorporating the following activities.

MAKE THE MAGIC HAPPEN

Much like the show-and-tell event in Mrs. Waked's room, invite partygoers to submit a slip of paper with a list of unique "tricks" or hidden talents, and stage an *X Factor* sort of show where participants can put their own magic on display. If your resources allow it, you may also consider hiring local talent to come in to teach your partygoers some simple magic tricks, or to put on a magic show.

DANCING THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

Set up decorative elements around a path of foot placements across part of your space that utilize some of the basic steps of Cuban styles of dance such as the mambo, rumba, and salsa. Put the music on and let your partygoers dance to "parallel dimensions" while learning to move in these iconic styles. Rows of book shelving could be a great way to establish the "parallel dimension" effect!

“DO THAT CONGA!”

What Miami-styled party would be complete without a conga line! As a variation on the “walk through time” theme, put on Miami Sound Machine’s iconic dance single “Conga” and lead a conga line through your space. The goal is to be as creative as possible in the moving, so encourage your partygoers to utilize their bauta masks and to really cut loose across the dance floor.

Sal and Gabi’s epic adventures all begin with a chicken and some magic, so be sure to have some rubber chickens on hand for the following activities.



CLUCK, CLUCK, CHICKEN!

If your party space allows, play a few rounds of Cluck, Cluck, Chicken. This racing-chasing game is guaranteed fun for chickens and Sal & Gabi readers alike.

How to Play:

Begin by having all the event attendees except one sit in a circle facing each other. The remaining person goes around the circle, tapping each child gently on the head and saying, “Cluck.”

When the tapper says, “Chicken,” the child whose head was just touched jumps up and chases the tapper around the circle. The tapper in turn tries to get all the way back to the chicken’s spot without getting tagged by the pigeon. If the tapper succeeds, the “chicken” becomes the new tapper and the

game continues. But if the “chicken” catches the tapper, the tapper continues his or her walk around the circle.

PASS THAT CHICKEN!

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side, of course! Divide the Sal & Gabi event participants into relay teams. Provide each team with a rubber chicken. Ask participants to “mix it up” as they race to get their chicken across the “road” in this adrenaline-pumping relay.

First, divide attendees into small groups (4–5) for each group. Next, explain the rules. Players must travel from point A to point B and back again with their team’s chicken, in turns, until the whole team has participated, but there’s one catch—they have to mix it up! While holding on to their chicken, no one player on the team can travel in the same manner as a teammate. One jumps, one crabwalks, one hops, one skips, one runs, and so on until you have a winner!

LITTLE HAVANA SILLAS MUSICALES (MUSICAL CHAIRS)

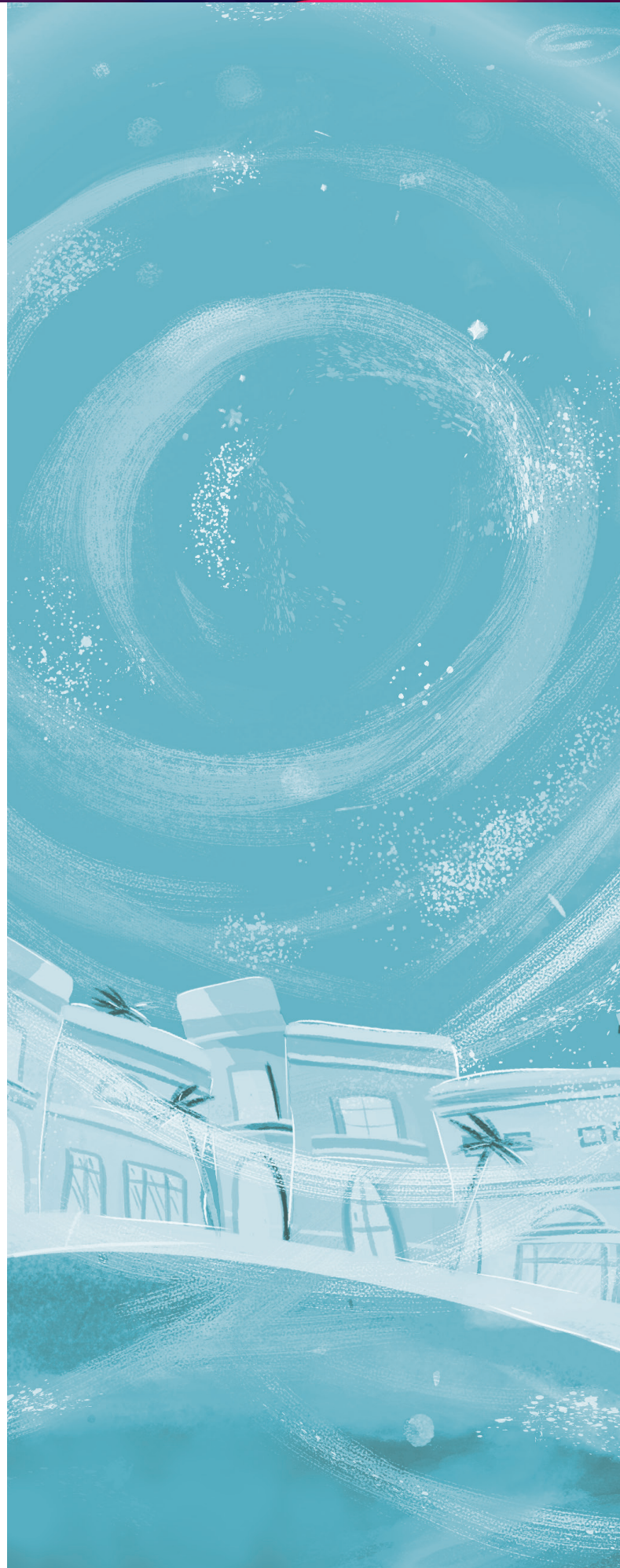
Throughout Sal & Gabi novels, readers discover the wonderful ways Cuban culture is essential to Sal’s and Gabi’s lives. It’s impossible to think of Cuba without also recognizing the influence of sound and music and how it is rooted within the Cuban people. For this activity, organize a standard game of musical chairs, but utilize the talents of Cuban and Cuban American artists to move the game along. Play tracks from artists such as Celia Cruz, Arturo Sandoval, Cesar Romero, Miami Sound Machine, Sammy Davis Jr., Pitbull, Jon Secada, and Gente de Zona. Create printouts that briefly highlight the significance of the music just played to the work of the artist or to their community, and have the disqualified players read them aloud before leaving the game to inspire their interest afterward.

GET INTO YOUR PARALLEL CHARACTER

Incorporating Sal & Gabi's theme of alternate dimensions, encourage your partygoers to develop an artistic rendering of what they might encounter if they were to see themselves in another dimension of time and space. Provide butcher paper and art supplies, and challenge them to draw some of the qualities they would expect to see in the versions of themselves in alternate universes. Might they have simple differences in looks like height, hair color, or style of dress, or might they be more radically altered such as having horns, tiger stripes, or a tail? Might they crave foods that they currently dislike? Might they have superpowers? The possibilities are infinite!

DESIGN YOUR OWN BAUTA MASK

A great part of the fun of these iconic Carnival masks is the design added to their elegant simplicity. Provide masks on coloring sheets or use plain plastic masks from a party store, and art supplies such as markers, glue, glitter, sequins, ribbon, fabric flowers, and beads. Set your partygoers to work creating their own festival mask.



DESIGN YOUR OWN GOOD LUCK CHARM

Good luck charms, amulets, and talismans are used to bring good fortune to the wearer or prevent bad luck or evil from coming their way. In Cuban culture, ojos turcos are sometimes worn on necklaces and bracelets to protect the person wearing it. Think about what things make you feel positive and safe or that give you a feeling of good luck. Use the space below to design your own good luck charm.

IS IT FACT OR FICTION?

1. Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean Sea.

FACT or FICTION

2. Cuba has only one type of habitat.

FACT or FICTION

3. Miami is the most southerly major city in the continental United States.

FACT or FICTION

4. The United States and Cuba have a complicated relationship.

FACT or FICTION

5. The Miami Marlins of the National Football League and the Miami Dolphins of Major League Baseball both play at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami.

FACT or FICTION

6. Unlike in most countries in Latin America, the most popular sport in Cuba is football.

FACT or FICTION

7. Miami gets its name from one of the Native American tribes that visited there.

FACT or FICTION

8. Cuba's original inhabitants were the Ciboney and Guanahatabey people.

FACT or FICTION

9. Cuba's bee hummingbird is the largest bird in the world.

FACT or FICTION

10. Music is an essential part of Cuban culture. The main musical form is called son, which combines lively rhythms with classical guitar.

FACT or FICTION

1. FACT 2. FICTION Cuba has many different habitats, from mountain forests to jungles and grasslands. 3. FACT 4. FACT 5. FICTION The Miami Dolphins of the NFL play at Hard Rock Stadium while the Miami Marlins of MLB play at Marlins Park. 6. FICTION The most popular sport in Cuba is baseball! 7. FICTION The Mayaimi lived on the land now known as Miami in the 16th and 17th centuries. 8. FACT 9. FICTION It's the smallest bird in the world! 10. FACT