



# Juan Hormiga

GUSTAVO ROLDÁN

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH  
BY ROBERT CROLL



EDUCATIONAL  
GUIDE




## ABOUT THE BOOK


Juan Hormiga, the greatest storyteller of his anthill, loves to recount his fearless grandfather's adventures to his enraptured ant friends – until one day he decides to set off on an adventure of his own. With whimsical, irresistible illustrations, *Juan Hormiga* affirms the joys of sharing stories, and of creating your own out in the world.




## NAPPING




Juan Hormiga does a lot of sleeping in the book: he naps as many as ten times in a single afternoon! Gustavo Roldán's playful illustrations show Juan napping on a rock, on a flower, on a leaf, on the anthill, and in the giant willow tree. Have the children make a list of their favorite places to nap or be lazy. Is it in a bed, on a couch, with a stuffed animal or favorite toy? Then, have them draw themselves in one of their napping spots and write a short caption below: what time of day is it? What are they dreaming about? They can share these drawings with the class.



## TELL ME A STORY



Over the course of the book, Juan Hormiga tells his fellow ants the stories of his grandfather's many travels: how he escaped from an eagle's talons, leapt from the top of a poplar tree, hung onto a spider's thread, plunged into the river. Juan tells all of these tales in "hypnotizing words" – he's a great storyteller. Do you know anyone – family, friends, teachers, or neighbors – who can tell stories like Juan can? Look at the author's and illustrator's notes about their childhoods at the back of the book, and have the children write down and share a favorite tradition in their lives that revolves around storytelling, or a favorite story they have heard or read.





## THOUGHT BUBBLES — GROUP ACTIVITY

Gustavo Roldán, the book's writer and illustrator, shows us what the ants are thinking about and imagining by drawing thought bubbles filled with pictures. Inside the thought bubbles he draws pictures of Juan's dreams while he sleeps; images of Juan's grandfather while Juan tells the stories of his adventures; and he shows us what the other ants imagine might have happened to Juan when the storm comes. All of these pictures help us to visualize the action of the story.

- Split the class into small groups. In groups, have the kids come up with three ant characters who live on the ant hill with Juan Hormiga. Each ant should have at least one main characteristic, and/or at least one thing that he or she is thinking about or imagining.
- Have the students draw each other's ants, with their thought bubbles depicting what they are imagining, thinking, doing, or desiring.
- Share these images with the group and describe the ant characters to the class.



## PROLOGUE

All of Juan Hormiga's grandfather's adventures happened before the book began – maybe even before Juan Hormiga was born. Working in groups, ask the children to write a “prologue” to Juan Hormiga by picking one of the grandfather's adventures and writing a short story of a page or so from the grandfather's perspective. They can talk about the story together and pick one member of the group to write it down, or they can take turns writing sentences and creating a story together. One member of each group can read their story aloud to the others.



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