**Book Information**  
_Under the Mesquite_ by Guadalupe García McCall

**Pre-Club Activities**  
Ask the children and families to read the book prior to the event and select their favorite scene or vignette from the book that they would like to share with the group.

**Club Activities**

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Welcome children and families to the library and to the book club. Have families introduce themselves by stating their name and the school the children attend. Go around the circle and ask participants if they would like to share their favorite scene from the book. Ask participants to share why they chose that particular scene.</td>
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| **Discussion Questions** | 1. What genre does the author use to tell the story? Do you like this style of storytelling? Why or why not?  
2. What challenges does Lupita face? Have someone write them on the board or large sheet.  
3. How does Lupita cope with these challenges? Also write these down in a separate column.  
4. What is the symbolism of the mesquite? What does it signify? Why is it important to this story? Why do you think the author chose this symbol to represent her story? |
| **Family Activity** | Using paper, pen and other markers and art supplies, have family members draw a favorite scene from the story. Suggested examples may include drawing of Lupita's mother's rose garden, a mesquite tree growing among the roses; a nopal (cactus) on Lupita's forehead; a young girl writing poetry under the mesquite tree. |
| **Small Group Activity** | Ask for a volunteer to read the poem "To be or not to be Mexican" aloud, beginning on page 78. Begin a conversation by asking participants to share an experience where they have felt mocked, humiliated, ridiculed or made fun of by someone else or others. How were these experiences similar to or different from Lupita's? Are there any similarities or differences across generations? |

Visit [http://dia.alala.org](http://dia.alala.org) for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
**Activity** | **Description/Information**
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Full Group Activity | Ask each family group to discuss their drawings if they have any they would like to share. Ask them to articulate how they feel about the book discussion experience. Did the book discussion experience help them to better understand the story? Was this a story they could relate to? Would they recommend this book to someone else? Why or why not?

**Post Club Activities:**
1. Look at the additional discussion questions provided by the publisher. Discusses them as a family at home.

**Additional Resources:**
2. Additional discussion questions may be found at the publisher’s website: [http://www.leeandlow.com/p/under_the_mesquite_dq.mhtml](http://www.leeandlow.com/p/under_the_mesquite_dq.mhtml)

This lesson plan was created by Oralia Garza de Cortes, Consultant, Latino Children’s Books; member of the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA).