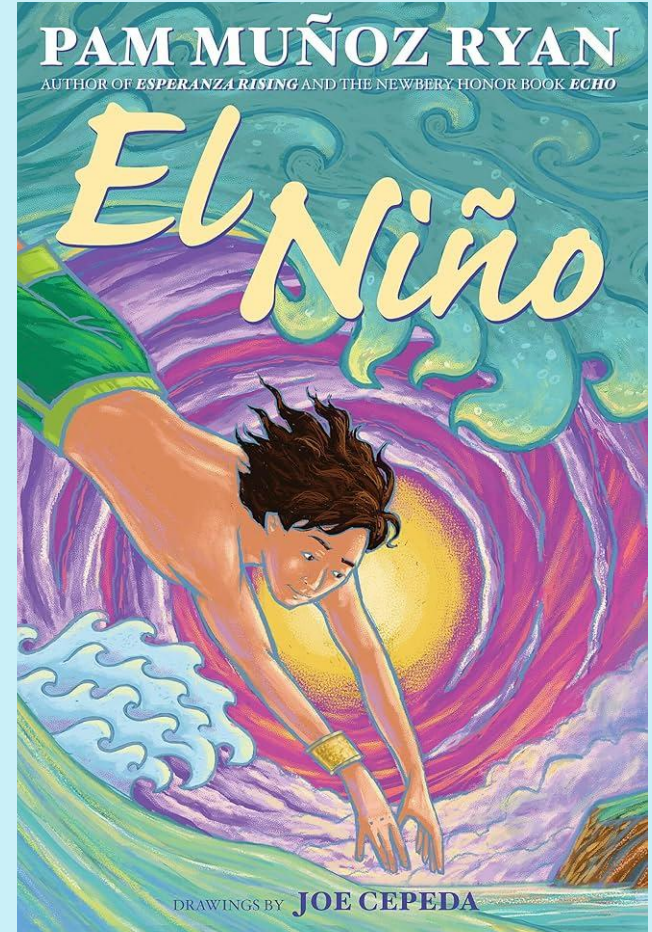


El Niño

By: *Pam Muñoz Ryan*
Illustrator: *Joe Cepeda*

Title of activity: “Exploring the World of *El Niño*
Through Writing”

Developed By: Norah Falkel, Mia Trejo, and Jada
Michael for CU Boulder’s Children’s Book
Festival 2025, open Education Resource, Creative
Commons, Available at
colorado.edu/even/bookfest



Grade and Colorado Academic Standard:

- Grade level: 5th
- Content Area: Reading, Writing, and Communicating

Colorado Academic Standard information:

Reading for All Purposes

Grade Level Expectation: Apply strategies to interpret and analyze various types of literary texts.

Evidence Outcome: Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text

Colorado Academic Standards retrieved from:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards>.

View the full standards at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>

Activity overview

Objective:

Students will learn about climate changes in the book *El Niño*. We can see the impacts on different regions while developing reading and writing comprehension.

Introduction:

- Start by asking students what they know about weather patterns and how they connect to *El Niño*.
- Discuss key points, emphasizing the causes and effects of the climate.

Group discussion:

- Divide students into small groups and have them discuss some effects of *El Niño* and how it impacts plants and people.
- Ask them - Have *they heard of any recent weather events similar to El Niño in the*

Creative writing/art assignment:

• Writing:

Ask students to write a short story from the perspective of a character that was affected by *El Niño*.

• Include:

Description how it affects the character and the emotions and challenges they faced

• Art:

Have each group illustrate an image to go along with their writing and how it relates.

Presentation/Reflection:

Presentation:

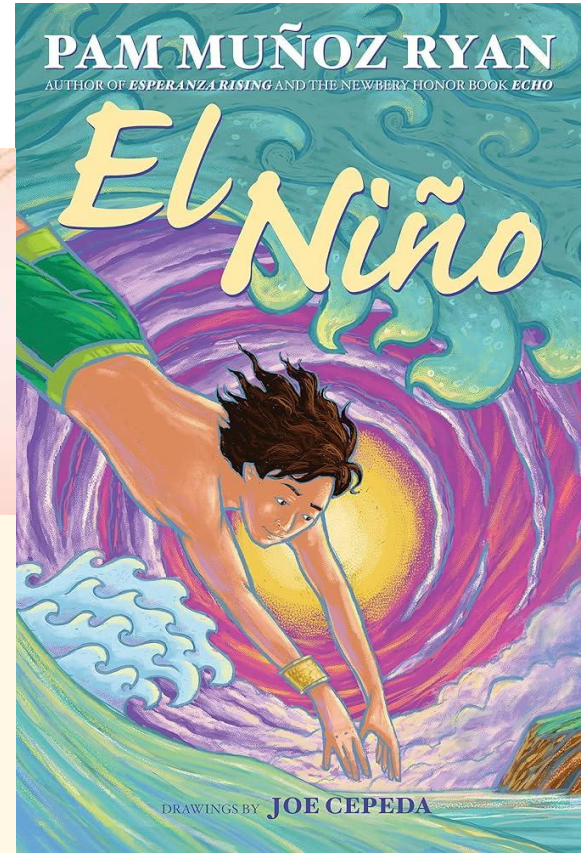
- Have each group present their writing and art, and give a brief description of their thought process and why it connects to the book

Reflection:

- Class discussion on how they think the activity went and how they could benefit from it.
- Ask students what they have learned from the book?

Materials:

1. Copy of the book *El Niño*
2. Graph paper or a poster board
3. Markers
4. Colored pencils
5. Crayons
6. Chromebook
7. Notebook



Instructions:

- The teacher will split everyone into groups.
- The students will review the story and pick a character.
- Students should describe how their chosen character was affected and describe the challenges that they faced.
- Each group should include an illustration, a written explanation, and a discussion of how their work relates to the story.

Other suggestions for the activity:

If you have a student that may need support with group collaboration or writing activities:

- **Have the student brainstorm with a friend they are comfortable with or individually a list of the climate causes and effects.**
 - **Option 1: Give each student a set of printed pictures to represent the climate changes in El Niño.**
 - **Option 2: Have the student draw illustrations to represent the story. Have students create a picture story and organize the before and after events of weather change effects.**
- **Have each student present their story to the class explaining each event and then have a class discussion after.**
- **This accommodation allows students to understand what is happening in the story through images rather than writing.**

The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present the
2025 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 8 | Boulder Public Library



**SALINA
YOON**



**NYASHA
WILLIAMS**



**DENISE
VEGA**



**PAM
MUÑOZ RYAN**



**RITA
WILLIAMS-GARCIA**



**SHAREE
MILLER**



Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

 **Boulder Public Library (Main Branch) - 1001 Arapahoe Ave.**
Free parking available

This **free event** includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

The CU Children's Book Festival is supported by a grant from the CU Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES)



See the schedule & register:
[colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://www.colorado.edu/event/colorado.edu/event/bookfest)

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We also hope you can join us on Saturday, November 8 at the Boulder Public Library to meet Pam Muñoz Ryan and hear more about *El Niño*, in-person...along with other authors and illustrators! For more information, visit <https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest>