Audience-Participation Poem to introduce young children to:

Doña Flor: A Tall-tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart

Before reading the poem or having a student, students or audience members read it, practice having them say “more” when you gesture with your hand and having them say “roar” when you show them your claws (hands curved like cat paws). You can also invite the participants to raise their voices more and more when they repeat a word in a line. Pronunciation guide at the end of the poem.

Once a girl named Flor,
kept growing more—and more.

She grew and grew and GREW, young Flor,
Five feet, six feet—more and more.

Taller than a house was Flor—and more.
Taller than a school was Flor—and more.
Taller than a tree was Flor—and more.
Taller than a montaña was Flor—and MORE.

Neighbors called her Doña Flor.
Doña Flor, Doña Flor, was nice to everyone—more and more.

She grew giant flowers—and more,
She made humungous tortillas sweet Flor.

Neighbors used her tortillas as roofs—and more,
They even used them as small boats en el calor.

“May we have your giant flowers, Doña Flor?”
Kids asked, “May we, por favor?”

Then one day, “R O A R!”
Flor’s pueblo heard a loud, “R O A R!”

Her neighbors said, “Doña Flor, please explore who’s making that terrible “ROAR.”

Flor and her friends heard, “R O A R!”
and “Roar!” And “R O A R!”
With giant steps she marched, our Flor.
She searched for miles and miles—and more and more.

Taller than a house was Flor—and more.
Taller than a school was Flor—and more.
Taller than a tree was Flor—and more.
Taller than a montaña was Flor—and MORE.

(pause)

Did Flor find the gato with the giant the “ROAR?”
¡Por favor! Read the book, not once, not twice,
but more and more.

Glossary

Doña          DOH nyah       title of respect as in Lady Flor
montaña      mohn tah NYAH   mountain
en el calor  ehn ehl cah LOR in the heat
por favor    por fah VOR      please
pueblo        PWEB loh       village or town
gato          GAH toh        cat

Notes: I didn’t italicize “pueblo” in the poem since it’s now in an English dictionary. The letter “o” in Spanish is not exactly like our long “o” in English. It’s more like the “o” in the word “boat.”

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