

Alma often thinks back on the special times she has with her family and friends. Like the time she sang Aguinaldos (Puerto Rican Christmas carols) with her family as they walked through their neighborhood on Nochebuena, or her first Bomba dance performance before a big Sweat Sox game at the stadium. One way to remember holidays and special days is by creating a memory box. It's a fun way to celebrate moments spent with family and friends. You can fill the box with notes, drawings, and trinkets and add to it throughout the year.



## Materials

- A shoebox or other cardboard box with a lid
- Paper (white or colored)
- Crayons, markers, or paint
- Stickers or other decorations
- Glue or tape
- Pair of scissors (with adult supervision)
- Fabric scraps (optional)

## Instructions



1 Work together to decorate the box. You can cover it with paper or fabric scraps, or you can paint or color the box.



2 Talk about special times you have shared with family and friends. Each person can write or draw about a memory they'd like to add to the box. Younger children may need help writing a message about the special time. If you have a photograph or trinket from the day, you can add it to the box, too.



3 Keep your box in a special place in your home and continue to add notes and drawings. On holidays or during celebrations, you can open the box and share stories with one another. You might want to ask each other questions about the notes and drawings.

## Explore Further

Some memories may be about traditions and how they are a part of your heritage. You could explore the history of a tradition or take time to learn about traditions from other cultures. What foods, music, and decorations are a part of holiday celebrations in your community and around the world?

When the Rivera family's Nochebuena traditions don't go as planned, Alma must learn to celebrate in a new way. Do you have a story about a time when a tradition changed?