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WELCOMING SCHOOLS
Book of the Month



Tío and Tío: The Ring Bearers

By: Dr. Wellinthon García-Mathews and Ross Mathews

Illustrated by: Tommy Doyle

Foreword by: Drew Barrymore

Elementary Discussion Guide

Suggested Age Range: 4-9

About the Story

Evan and Andy travel to Mexico for the wedding of their uncles, Tío Welly and Tío Ross. They are excited to swim in the pool, play soccer, and eat slices of wedding bizcocho. The boys learn they have the important job of being the ring bearers at the wedding. They begin to worry about keeping the rings safe until the ceremony and not tripping as they walk down the aisle. At the pre-wedding party, they meet a new friend, Drew, the flower girl. With the support of their family, Drew, and each other, Evan and Andy work together to carry out their important job and celebrate their tíos on their unforgettable wedding day.

About the Authors

Dr. Wellinthon García-Mathews was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States when he was five years old. He has worked as a teacher, school leader, and college professor. Dr. García-Mathews enjoys helping young people learn and celebrate who they are. *Tío & Tío: The Ring Bearers* is inspired by his wedding to Ross Mathews.

Ross Mathews is an Emmy Award-winning television host, producer, and author. He is a cohost of *The Drew Barrymore Show*. Ross loves making people laugh and sharing stories. *Tío & Tío: The Ring Bearers* is inspired by his wedding to Dr. Wellinthon García-Mathews.

About the Illustrator

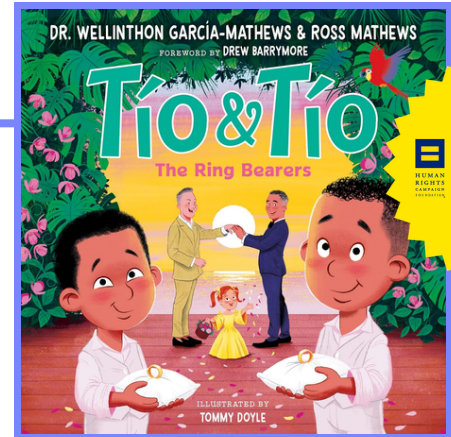
Tommy Doyle is an illustrator and graphic designer who was born in Montreal, Canada, and now lives in Melbourne, Australia. As a child, Tommy loved watching Saturday morning cartoons. He is known for his colorful illustrations that bring stories to life.

Discussion Questions

- ✱ What are some things Evan and Andy were excited to do in Mexico?
- ✱ What are some ways you could tell that Tío and Tío love each other?
- ✱ What important responsibilities did Evan and Andy have at their tíos' wedding?
- ✱ Where are some places Evan and Andy thought about keeping the wedding rings safe? Where did they finally decide to keep the rings?
- ✱ What happened at the pre-wedding party that helped Evan and Andy feel more excited about the wedding?

Activities

- ✱ Draw or make a list of some of the things you would pack if you were traveling to a family celebration in Mexico.
- ✱ Make a list of the Spanish words you read in the story. Practice saying them out loud.
- ✱ Draw a picture of a special celebration you've been to. It could be a wedding, birthday, holiday, family reunion, or another special event.
- ✱ Draw or write about a time you were nervous to do something important. What helped you feel brave?
- ✱ Make a book of the Spanish words you learned from the story. Draw a picture to match each word. Share your book with a family member or friend and teach them the words.



Reading is one of the most powerful ways to model inclusion and nurture empathy. Welcoming Schools created the Book of the Month series to foster compassionate dialogue and elevate joyful stories of authentic LGBTQ+ lives, building monthly engagement and momentum leading up to our National Day of Reading each February.