

## Building Children’s Vocabulary: A Conversation Guide for Parents

**WHAT TO DO:** Read the book aloud to your child. Engage in fun conversation and talk about what you are reading. Focus on teaching fancy vocabulary words found in the text.

**WHY DO IT:** Children who hear books read aloud to them have an easier time learning to read. Teaching vocabulary words in an exciting and lively way helps children become interested in words; and this supports your child’s reading skills that are important for their school success.

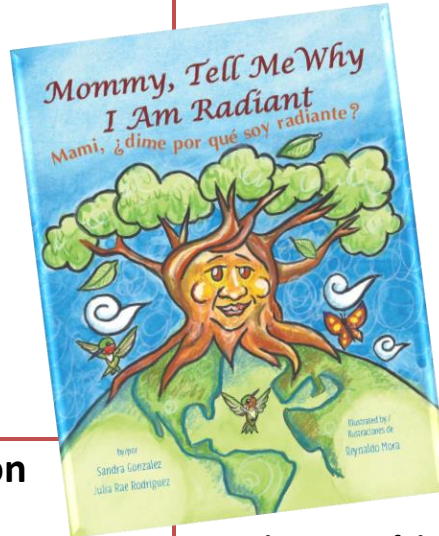
### ***Mommy, Tell Me Why I Am Radiant by Sandra Gonzalez & Julia Rae Rodriguez (2017)***

Example of how to introduce the book – “We are going to read a story about a little girl and her mom who are having a conversation. Listen closely to the way the mom describes the qualities that make the little girl special.”

#### Target Vocabulary Words

##### **Electrifying – Glistening – Illuminating - Vibrant**

As you are reading and come to each target word, say the word clearly and loudly. Ask your child to repeat the word with you (this helps your child create a phonological representation of the word). Show excitement for the word and ask if your child knows the meaning. Share the child-friendly definition with them to teach or to enhance their knowledge of the target vocabulary words.



#### Child-Friendly Definitions

**Electrifying** – means something is very exciting

**Glistening** - when something is wet and shiny

**Illuminating** – another word for bright and glowing

**Vibrant** - bright and colorful

#### Opportunities for a Great Conversation

**Prompts for connecting the story to your child’s life experiences:**

- What was your favorite scene in the book? Why?
- Did you like how the mom responded to the little girl? Why?
- Has a hummingbird ever flown near you? Tell me about the experience. If not, what do you think it would feel like?

**Talking about the story using open-ended questions:**

- Which word did you like hearing the most and why?
- Who do you think is a radiant person? Why?
- When it rains, what do you like to do?

#### Teaching the Sounds of the Alphabet

**Use the cover of the book to teach the sounds of the alphabet:**

Children should learn the **sounds for each letter** of the alphabet. This builds a critical skill that all children need for learning to read.

- Read the title of the book out loud. Ask your child to count how many words you are saying. (Mommy, tell me why I am radiant = 7 words)
- Say “mommy”. Repeat it and extend the /m/ sound. Ask your child to tell you what letter “mommy” starts with.