The Greatest Adventure

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Eliot lives for and longs for adventure. His grandfather, El Capitan, returns home from a sailing trip, and Eliot feels that his time has finally come. Together they can seek out excitement. After all, El Capitan has piloted a boat through jungles, and across the deep sea. As they walk through the city, Grandfather helps Eliot to imagine that they are hunting for dragons and finding giants. What Eliot wants most, however, is to take a trip with his grandfather on his boat. Unfortunately, the boat is old and broken. Sadly, Grandfather explains that his adventures are finally over. Eliot, with a twinkle in his eye, shows his grandfather that the boat has many stories left to tell. Working together, they realize that adventure and magic can be found everyday as they spend time together.

Discovering adventure and excitement in everyday life is a major theme of this book. The importance of developing family relationships is also evident. Eliot and his grandfather have much to teach each other about finding joy and fun. They have different points of view and show each other how seeing the world in a different way can be beneficial. The family uses Spanish terms of endearment to address each other, showing their affection, while introducing readers to a little bit of their family culture. The watercolor brush strokes in the illustrations take different tones throughout the book and add to the progression of the story. Muted, gray tones illustrate the real-world scenes, where bright, vivid blues and greens show the excitement of imagination. On the last page of the book, the author includes photographs and drawings of Eliot with his grandpa, documenting their lives as their adventures unfold together.