4-14

[](https://twitter.com/timdurkan/status/1248476937686638592/photo/1)Did you see some of the pictures of blue-lit cities across the country thanking health care and essential workers? I wish I had a blue light bulb; I would join in. These are challenging times; we all need to do our part. We need to express our appreciation for those who help to keep some normalcy in place.

**ELA**  Today, let’s talk about Manuel’s talent show performance in “La Bamba”. There are two clues that this story takes place in the 1980’s: Madonna’s “Like a Virgin” was released in 1984, Manuel references Michael Jackson’s dance moves, and he uses a turntable to play his 45. Soto uses few and simple adjectives. That keeps his text readable and approachable. Some examples are “skinny legs”, “frosty morning”, “fresh-fallen leaves”, “best clothes”, “large knot”. He also uses figurative language such as “applause as loud as a thunderstorm” and “a hiss that sounded like a snake”. Do you like his style of writing? Why or why not?

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING** Let’s use the “Mirrors/Windows” task at the end of the story. Manuel’s plan is to present a serious musical performance in the talent show. Technology gets in the way. His performance makes the audience laugh. Have you ever been in a situation when someone else’s opinion/perspective is entirely different from your own? Maybe you thought you were funny and your audience did not. Perhaps you were surprised when a coach tried to teach you a skill you thought you’d already mastered.