

Blizzard Bag – Day 1

1. Read the two selections about Pablo Casals
2. Answer the questions on the sheet attached. Use complete sentences for every question.
3. Translate the 5 sentences on a separate sheet of paper.
 1. My name is Paco and I am shy, active, and intellectual.
 2. What are you like? I am quite funny and I am also hard-working.
 3. Liliana and María are pretty and foolish.
 4. My science teacher is outgoing and she is tall.
4. ANSWER the following questions in Spanish and in complete sentences.
 1. ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?
 2. ¿Cuántos años tienes?
 3. ¿Qué día es hoy?
 4. ¿Qué fecha es hoy?



Read about Pablo Casals. Then do the exercises.

Pablo Casals was a world-famous cellist. He was born in Vendrell, Spain in 1876. His mother was from Puerto Rico. His father was from Spain.

Pablo Casals' father was a musician who played the organ at the church, sang, and gave piano lessons. Little Pablo grew up in a world filled with music.

"Music was for me an ocean in which I swam like a little fish," Casals wrote. "Music was inside me and all about me. It was the air I breathed from the time I walked."

Pablo's father often played the piano at home. Young Pablo would sit against the piano as close as he could. The music made the piano legs vibrate. Pablo wanted to feel the vibrations. He wanted to feel the music and to hear it.

Pablo Casals could hum a tune before he could speak. He learned to play the piano at the age of four. He practiced often. For him, practicing was not a chore, it was pure joy. He wanted to learn to play many instruments.

"Papa, Papa," young Pablo begged. "I want to play the organ. Please. Teach me how."

"But Pablito," his father said. "I cannot. An organist must play with hands and feet. You cannot yet reach the foot pedals. When you can reach them, I will teach you."

Finally, when Pablo was nine, he had grown tall enough. His feet reached the foot pedals. Now his father would teach him to play the organ!

When he was about 10, Pablo walked out of the church one day and met a fisherman he knew.

"Oh, Pablo," the man said, "today your father made the organ sing like the angels!"

"But Senor," Pablo answered, "it was I who was playing!"

"If that is so, then I have heard the playing of a boy who will one day be a very great musician."

Read more about Pablo Casals, then do the exercises.

One sunny day in Vendrell, Spain, Pablo Casals ran with the others to the plaza.

There in the center were Los Tres Bemoles or The Three Flats. They were dressed in bright costumes with pointed hats. They wore the masks of clowns. They played very strange instruments!

One clanged a soup pot and a lid. Another clinked glasses with a spoon. What caught Pablo's eye, though, was a broom with long pieces of string strung from top to bottom. The clown played it like a giant violin.

"Papa!" Pablo said. "Will you make me a cello just like that?"

At the age of 11, Casals heard his first real cello. He went to a concert at church to hear Josep Garcia play.

"From the moment I heard the first notes," Casals wrote, "I was overwhelmed. I felt as if I could not breathe. There was something so tender, beautiful and human about the sound. I had never heard such a beautiful sound before."

At the concert Pablo turned to his mother and said, "Mama, that is the most beautiful instrument I have ever heard. That is what I want to play."

From then on Casals studied the cello. His mother knew he had a special gift. His father did, too. Still, his papa thought he should be a carpenter.

"For musicians it is too hard to earn a living," he said sadly. But as Casals got better and better, his father changed his mind.

"You have great talent. Do not let it go to your head. You are not responsible for that. What you do with your talent is what matters. You must cherish this gift. Do not waste what you have been given. Work. Work constantly, and nourish it. Make your work a salute to life."

Early in his career Casals played at the palace for Queen Victoria. Late in his career he played at the White House for President Kennedy. In between, he played for people around the world, including thousands at the annual Pablo Casals Music Festival in Puerto Rico.

Pablo Casals' work was a salute to life. He played the cello for more than 80 years. He was the greatest cellist in the world.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES IN YOUR OWN WORDS. COMPLETE THIS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.

- 1. WHO WAS PABLO CASALS?**
- 2. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT PABLO CASALS WAS HISPANIC?**
- 3. CITE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT THAT INDICATE HOW PABLO CASALS BECAME INTERESTED IN MUSIC.**
- 4. WHY DID PABLO SIT AGAINST THE PIANO AS HIS FATHER PLAYED?**
- 5. HOW DID PABLO FEEL ABOUT PRACTICING?**
- 6. WHY DID IT TAKE HIM SO LONG TO LEARN THE ORGAN?**
- 7. WHAT MISTAKE DID THE FISHERMAN MAKE?**
- 8. WAS THE FISHERMAN'S PREDICTION RIGHT? EXPLAIN.**
- 9. IN AT LEAST THREE SENTENCES, TELL WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT PABLO CASALS.**
- 10. WHAT ADVICE DID PABLO'S FATHER GIVE HIM?**
- 11. WHAT WAS CASAL'S SALUTE TO LIFE? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? EXPLAIN USING INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT.**
- 12. HOW OLD WAS CASAL WHEN HE WROTE, OR COMPOSED, HIS FIRST MUSIC?**

Blizzard Bag - Day 2

1. On a separate sheet of paper, complete the following writing prompt in Spanish. Be sure to answer all questions using well-written sentences and vocabulary that you have learned. You should have at least 8-10 sentences.

Write a paragraph in Spanish describing yourself and your family members. Be sure to include ages of everyone, including yourself, and at least two personality traits. Also, mention personality traits that you and others do not have.

2. There are errors in the following sentences. Write out the following sentences on a separate sheet of paper, making all of the proper corrections. Look for errors in spelling, punctuation, and adjective/gender/noun agreement.
 - a. Mi mejor amigo es llama Laura. Ella es simpatico y inteligente
 - b. Quien es tu major amigo.
 - c. Mis proffesores de español es cómico y rubio.
 - d. Cuantos anos tienes tu mejor amigo.
 - e. Me llamo es Jorge y yo eres perezosa y simpatico.
3. Answer the following questions in Spanish and in complete sentences:
 - a. ¿Quién es tu mejor amigo/a?
 - b. ¿Cuántos años tiene tu mejor amigo/a?
 - c. ¿Cómo es él/ella?
 - d. ¿Qué le gusta?
 - e. ¿Por qué es él/ella tu mejor amigo/a?

Blizzard Bag – Day 3

Read the article about *Las Fallas* in Spain. Use the text to answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Answer all questions in complete sentences.

Las Preguntas

1. Where and when does the celebration of *Las Fallas* take place?
2. For what was this celebration originally started?
3. What does *Las Fallas* mean?
4. Describe the ninots using at least three sentences with details specific to the text.
5. How long do the ninots take to construct?
6. Where are the ninots placed for the celebration?
7. Describe, using details from the text, the burning of the ninots.
8. Using an example from the text, how do the firemen ensure that buildings close by do not catch on fire during the celebration?
9. What is the ninot indultat? How is it spared?
10. What are some other activities that take place during *Las Fallas*?
11. What takes place at 2pm every day in the Plaza Ayuntamiento?
12. Describe the firecrackers.

13. Describe your opinion of *Las Fallas*. Would you like to participate in something like this? Is there anything in the United States that we have that is similar to *Las Fallas*? Answer using at least 5 sentences.

Las Fallas en Valencia, España

Las Fallas is undoubtedly one of the most unique and crazy festivals in Spain. Then again, Spain is a country known for its unique and odd fiestas. What started as a feast day for St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters, has evolved into a 5-day, multifaceted celebration involving fire. Valencia, a quiet city with a population of just over 1 million, swells to an estimated three million flame-loving revelers during Las Fallas celebrations.

Las Fallas literally means "the fires" in Valencian. The focus of the fiesta is the creation and destruction of **ninots** ("puppets" or "dolls"), which are huge cardboard, wood, paper-machè and plaster statues. The ninots are extremely lifelike and usually depict bawdy, satirical scenes and current events. A popular theme is poking fun at corrupt politicians and Spanish celebrities. The labor intensive **ninots**, often costing up to US\$75,000, are crafted by neighborhood organizations and take almost the entire year to construct. Many **ninots** are several stories tall and need to be moved into their final location of over 350 key intersections and parks around the city with the aid of cranes on the day of *la plantà* (the rising).

The ninots remain in place until March 19th, the day known as *La Cremá* (the burning). Starting in the early evening, young men with axes chop cleverly-hidden holes in the statues and stuff them with fireworks. The crowds start to chant, the streetlights are turned off, and all of the ninots are set on fire at exactly 12am (midnight). Over the years, the local *bomberos* (firemen) have devised unique ways to protect the town's buildings from being accidentally set on fire by the ninots: such as neatly covering storefronts with fireproof tarps. Each year, one of the **ninots** is spared from destruction by popular vote. This ninot is called the *ninot indultat* (the pardoned puppet) and is exhibited in the local *Museum of the Ninot* along with the other favorites from years past.

Traveler and pyromaniac Janet Morton says, "The scene at **Las Fallas** is extremely cathartic and difficult to describe, but resembles a cross between a bawdy Disneyland, the Fourth of July and the end of the world!"

The origin of **las Fallas** is a bit murky, but most credit the fires as an evolution of pagan rituals that celebrated the onset of spring and the planting season. In the sixteenth century, Valencia used streetlights only during the longer nights of winter. The street lamps were hung on wooden structures, called parots, and as the days became longer the now-unneeded parots were ceremoniously burned on St. Joseph's Day. Even today the fiesta has retained its satirical and working-class roots, and the well-to-do and faint-of-heart of Valencia often ditch out of town during **Las Fallas**.

Besides the burning of the ninots, there is a myriad of other activities during the fiesta. During the day, you can enjoy an extensive roster of bullfights, parades, paella contests and beauty pageants around the city. Spontaneous fireworks displays

explode everywhere during the days leading up to *La Crema*, but the highlight is the daily *mascletá* which occurs in the Plaza Ayuntamiento at exactly 2pm. When the string-lined firecrackers are ignited, the thunderous, rhythmic sounds they make can be considered music as the sound intensifies in volume. Those firecrackers timed to fall to the ground literally shake the floor for next ten minutes, as the *mascletá* is more for auditive enjoyment than visual.

Another pyrotechnic *cremá* takes place in June throughout many towns in Spain. The most famous one is in the city of Alicante, as it celebrates Hogueras de San Juan, "The Bonfires of Saint John."

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