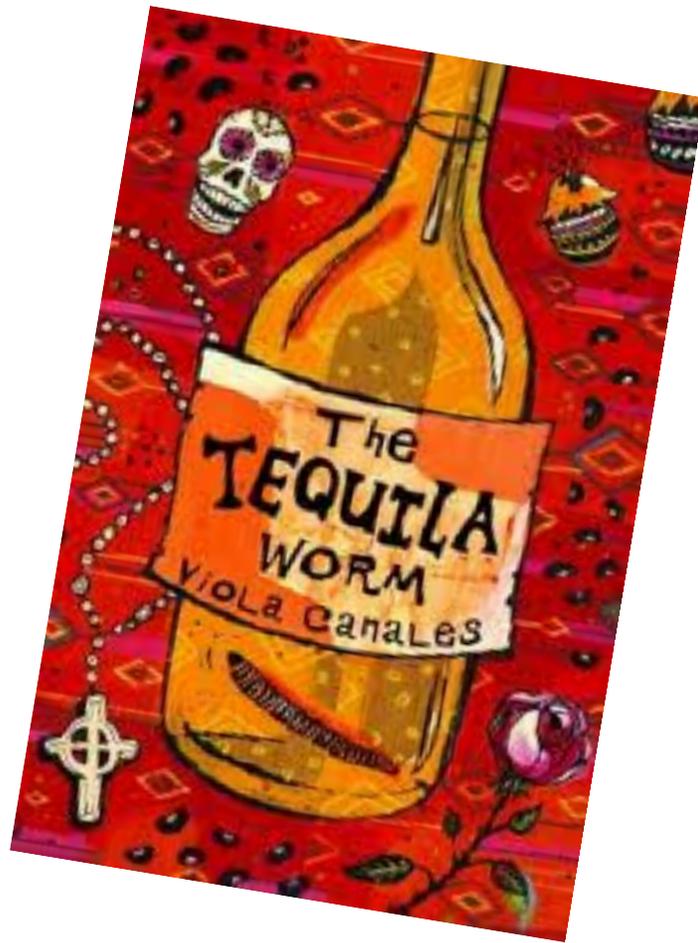


Family, Storytelling, and Celebrations: A Look at the Latino Culture Using The Tequila Worm



Family, Storytelling, and Celebrations: A Look at the Latino Culture Using *The Tequila Worm*

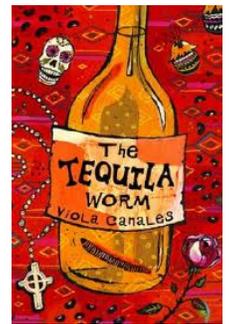
Age Group

10-15 years old



Goals/Objectives

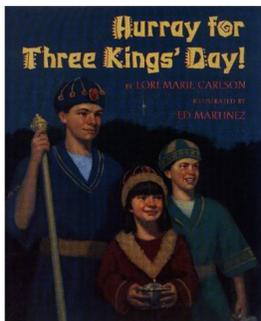
- To introduce and celebrate a diverse culture in a fun and rewarding way.
- To present and evaluate the lessons learned in *The Tequila Worm*.
- To instill a love of reading by offering crafts and activities to go along with quality Latino literature.



Feature Book

Canales, Viola. (2005). *The Tequila Worm*. New York, NY: Random House, Inc.

Sofia is surrounded by the culture and traditions of her *familia* as she grows up in Texas. When she is offered the chance to go to an Episcopal boarding school, she longs for the chance to see what else the world has to offer. However, she learns quickly that her family and traditions are an important part of who she is.



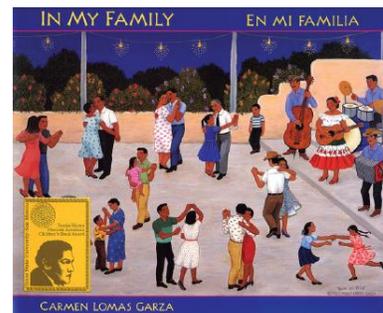
Additional Recommended Books

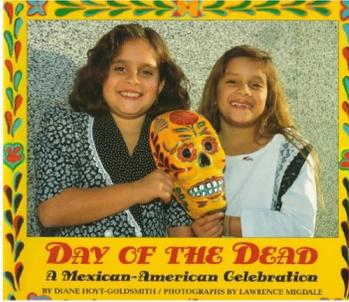
Carlson, Lori Marie. Illus. by Ed Martinez. (1999). *Hurray for Three Kings' Day!* New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

Anita and her brothers walk through the streets of her town dressed as three wise men, or three kings, searching for the baby Jesus. This colorful tale describes the celebration of Epiphany that many Latinos celebrate on the evening of January 5th.

Garza, Carmen Lomas. Illus. by Carmen Lomas Garza. (2000). *In My Family/En Mi Familia*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press.

Join the author and artist on this visual journey through her memories of growing up near the Mexican border in Texas. Each painting and narrative reflect the culture that she loves and celebrates.



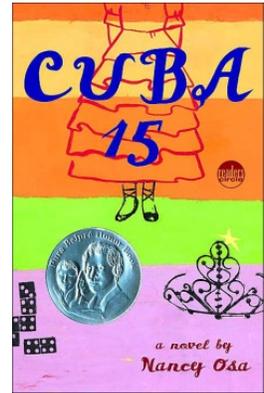


Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. Photos by Lawrence Migdale. (1995). *Day of the Dead: A Mexican-American Celebration*. New York, NY: Holiday House.

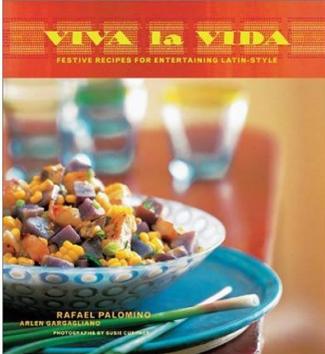
The celebrations of the Day of the Dead are captured in photographs of two girls living in Sacramento, CA. See their altar and parade regalia in colorful photographs as their family celebrates the holiday.

Osa, Nancy. (2005). *Cuba 15*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers.

Violet's grandmother has insisted that she have a *quinceañera*, but frilly dresses and tiaras are not Violet's cup of tea! And even though she wants to learn about her heritage, her father will have no part of it. Will Violet ever plan the perfect celebration? Or will her family drive her crazy first?



Palomino, Rafael, and Arlen Gargagliano. Photos by Susie Cushner. (2002). *Viva La Vida: Festive Recipes for Entertaining Latin Style*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.



From Yuca Fries to Fried Spanish Doughnuts, Palomino's cookbook brings traditional Latin dishes alive. It includes salsas and dips, appetizers, side dishes, main dishes, desserts, drinks, and a section on the "basics" of Latin cooking.

Intro Game/Activity

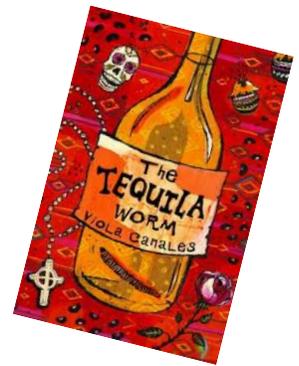


Have participants gather in a circle. Explain that the words “mi llamo” mean “my name is” in Spanish (for those who don’t speak the language). Go around the circle and have each person say, “Mi llamo _____ and I like _____.” Discussion can ensue about the Spanish words for what people like (ex. dogs = perros). See if any of the participants can remember everyone’s name.

Discussion Questions

The following discussion questions can be used during a book discussion of *The Tequila Worm*:

1. What strange or interesting thing might you add to Doña Clara’s storyteller’s bag to tell a story about you or your family?
2. Have you ever hunted for Easter eggs or cascarones? What do you find in the eggs or cascarones?
3. What is your favorite Halloween memory or costume?
4. Have you ever had something embarrassing happen to you at school and people made fun of you for it? What did you do about it? Would you do something different today?
5. If you were given the opportunity to attend a boarding school far away from your family, would you go? Why or why not?
6. Describe a routine or ritual that you enjoy doing with your family or a member of your family. How is this like Sofia cleaning pinto beans with her father?
7. Would you react to the prospect of a *quinceañera* more like Sofia or Berta? Why?
8. What would you have done to raise the \$400 parents’ contribution for school?
9. How would you have reacted to Terry’s practical jokes? Would you have done something different than what Sofia did? Explain.
10. Were you satisfied with how the story ended? Why or why not?



Craft

Cascarones play a significant role in *The Tequila Worm* – during Easter, at Sophia’s Birthday, and after Sophia’s father dies. Have participants create their own cascarones using empty eggshells, paper “crowns,” and glitter or scraps of paper to go inside.

Materials Needed:

- Empty eggshells
- Crayons or markers
- Paper circles for “crowns”
- Flour paste (made from mixing flour with a little water)
- Glitter
- Scraps of paper



Method:



to a friend and share the significance.

- Give each participant an empty eggshell and have him/her decorate it with crayons and markers.
- Have participants place glitter or paper in their cascarones. They can write messages on the paper before placing it inside.
- Seal the egg openings with the paper crowns and flour paste.
- Encourage participants to give their cascarones

Song

Sofia’s Mama and Papa danced to the *vals* “Julia” by Javier Solis at their wedding. Let the participants listen to the song found here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydACyWIKLD4> and give them sheets with the Spanish lyrics (Addendum A). Before the program begins, you could have someone translate the lyrics to English and include them on the lyrics page. Play it several times and encourage the participants to sing (and dance) along.

Extended Activities

1. Storyteller's Cartoon

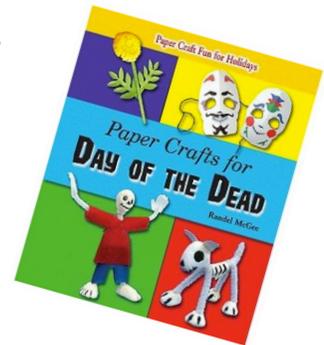
Storytelling is a huge part of Sofia's culture, as well as many cultures around the United States and the world. What are some stories told by your family or friends? Use the Storyteller's Cartoon sheet (Addendum B) to draw out a story that you have heard (or one you make up). Then tell the story to a friend using the drawings.

2. Family Tree

Family is one of the most important aspects of Sofia's life. Using the template in Addendum C, fill in as much of your family tree as you can. Take it home and get your family to help you fill in the rest.

3. Skeleton Candy Basket

El Día de los Muertos is celebrated in many Latino cultures and is mentioned several times in *The Tequila Worm*. People place altars on the graves of loved ones that have already passed away. These altars may include food, decorations, candles, and clothing. Using the pattern from Randel McGee's *Paper Crafts for Day of the Dead* (2008 Enslow Publishers), participants will create their own skeleton candy basket, much like one that may be on an altar. They can take the basket home and place candy in it.



4. Latino Dance Lesson & the History of Latin American Dance Styles



Dancing is a pastime in the Latino culture. Sofia's father and mother dance to the song "Julia" and Sofia dances with her mother at Berta's *quinceañera*. Local ballroom dancers will visit to show participants how to do Latin dances such as the cha-cha-cha, the samba, the mambo, and salsa-style dances.

Tweens and Teens will also research the various Latin American dance styles to learn more about them in preparation for the ballroom dancers.

Addendum A

Spanish Lyrics to “Julia” by Javier Solis

Spanish Lyrics:

Soñé
yo con tu amor
como se sueña en Dios
en tus ojos hallé
la respuesta a mi pasión

Al despertar mi embeleso de amor
de aquel sueño sacrosanto mi bien
juro nadie te amó
como te adoro yo a ti

Si es tormento vivir sin tu amor
y el amarte un eterno dolor
Julia mía yo quiero regar
con mis lágrimas tu corazón

Si soñando me hiciste llorar
y despierto me has hecho sufrir
si eso es vida yo quiero soñar
si eso es muerte yo quiero morir

Soñé
yo con tu amor
como se sueña en Dios
en tus ojos hallé
la respuesta a mi pasión



Addendum B

Storyteller's Cartoon

Directions: Use the boxes below to illustrate a story that you have heard or one that you created. Then tell the story to a friend showing them your illustrations.

Addendum C

Family Tree

Image courtesy of <http://thegrownupchild.ca/2010/03/evolution-of-the-family-tree/>.

