



2008

Senora Tortuga

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Schroeder-Arce, Roxanne. *Senora Tortuga*. Anchorage Press Plays, Inc., 2007. ISBN 978876024201. Contact publisher for rates. 35 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy play; Plays;

Subject: Spanish language--Juvenile Drama; Family relationships--Juvenile Drama; Stories--Juvenile Drama; Drama—Reviews;

Theme: Not all truth is based in reality

Production Requirements: flexible and minimal

Acts: 1

Run Time: 45 minutes

Characters: 9

Cast: at least 1 male, 2 females—up to 9 actors

Time Period: early 1900's

Senora Tortuga takes place on the Mexico/U.S. border next to a river. A farmer has agreed to let a mother and her two children live in an unused barn. Leticia, the mother, is having trouble with her son, Pedro, who is constantly complaining and will not do his chores. A mysterious woman (Senora Tortuga) visits them and asks to share their small meals with her. In return she tells them amazing stories. The children appreciate and enjoy the stories but Leticia resents them because "if it is not true, it is nothing." After Pedro has heard a few stories and has dreamed about them, he begins to behave. Leticia changes her mind about Senora Tortuga's stories being worthless when she realizes that Tortuga is the embodiment of the pet turtle she had as a child.

Spanglish is used throughout the play. The characters alternate between English and Spanish phrases. The dialogue is written in a way that English speakers would not have trouble understanding the Spanish dialogue. This play has an interesting concept, but it is not fulfilled in the best way possible. It comes to an abrupt ending that leaves the audience unsatisfied. The play would be suitable for a touring company because it needs few props and the staging can be representational.

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