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Fiesta Femenina: Celebrating Women of Mexican Folklore

Katherine Cooper

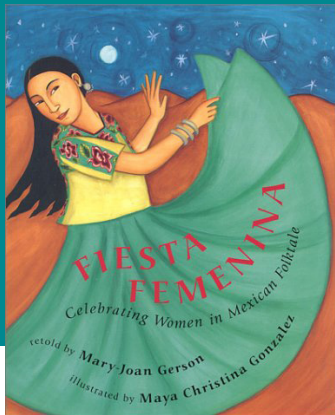
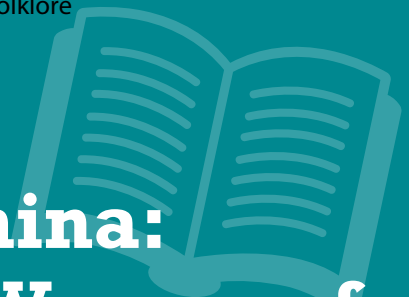
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Book Review

Fiesta Femenina: Celebrating Women of Mexican Folklore

Author

Mary-Joan Gerson

Illustrator

Maya Christina Gonzalez

Reviewer

Katherine Cooper

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary, Intermediate

.....

Pages

64

Year

2018

ISBN

9781782854258

Publisher

Barefoot Books

The young Mayan children, Rosha and Tup, love to play games while their parents work in the corn fields. As they get older, Rosha grows tired of always playing the games her brother makes up. Instead, she decides to begin playing games on her own. Tup, filled with anger towards his sister, comes up with an idea. He will catch the sun and Rosha will help him do it. While Rosha is sleeping, Tup comes up with a plan of how he will catch the sun. He cuts off Rosha's long, black hair and manages to use it to catch the sun. Devastated, Rosha searches for help setting the sun free. This is just one of eight delightful and enticing tales from a variety of ancient and more recent Mexican cultures.

Women are celebrated as heroines in each of the eight tales found in this collection. Notes from both the author and illustrator set the scene for this collection, making their respect and love for the Mexican culture very clear. A note from the editor explains that the word "folklore" in the title is not a perfect word, since it suggests that the stories may not be true. This simple, yet powerful statement opens up the reader's imagination and shows respect for the sacredness of Mexican culture. Since its original publication in 2001, *Fiesta Femenina* has won multiple awards. The award-winning artist, Maya Christina Gonzalez, has created incredible works of art to illustrate each tale. The tales contained in this book are able to be visited again and again.