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# Dia De Los Muertos



## Synopsis

It's the Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and children throughout the pueblo, or town, are getting ready to celebrate! They decorate with colored streamers, calaveras, or sugar skulls, and pan de muertos, or bread of the dead. There are altars draped in cloth and covered in marigolds and twinkling candles. Music fills the streets. Join the fun and festivities, learn about a different cultural tradition, and brush up on your Spanish vocabulary, as the town honors their dearly departed in a traditional, time-honored style.

SPANISH DESCRIPTION  
Es el Día de los Muertos y todos los niños del pueblo y ciudad están listos para celebrar! Decoran con calaveras lo calavera de azucar, pan de muertos y banderas. Hay altares cubiertos de manta con muchas flores, y velas parpadiendo. Musica llena las calles. Hay que unirse con los festivales y aprender una diferente cultura y tradiciones y repasar el vocabulario en español, mientras el pueblo honra sus queridos en una tradición con el transcurso y con el estilo del tiempo.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD970L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company (September 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807515663

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Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #220,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico #46 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious #225 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 • A festive and colorful celebration of the Mexican and Latin American holiday. Thong's rhyming narrative introduces the traditions practiced during El Día de los Muertos or the Day of the Dead, from the sugary, skull-shaped candies (calaveras) and altars built in

remembrance of the dearly departed to decorating tombstones and picnics at the cemetery. Spanish words are sprinkled throughout, sometimes defined through their context or otherwise included in the helpful glossary. From daybreak to nightfall, the holiday, often celebrated on November 1, is showcased as a town-wide event and is depicted as a family festivity. Ballesteros's vibrant and child-friendly art bursts off the page, sometimes overcrowding the tableau in a way that marries well with the partylike atmosphere. Mexican cultural references are made throughout, including cameos by Frida Kahlo, La Llorona, and the recently deceased Mexican actress and comedian Maria Elena Velasco, best known for her character La India Maria. The skeleton images made popular by Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada are also prevalent in each spread, but these almost jolly figures won't frighten young readers. Pair with Paul Bracegirdle's *The Dead Family Diaz* (Dial, 2012) for a themed storytime, or include in Halloween displays. VERDICT A jovial primer on the Latin American holiday for the uninitiated and a fiesta for those who already partake. —Shelley Diaz, *School Library Journal*

"A jovial primer on the Latin American holiday for the uninitiated and a fiesta for those who already partake." *School Library Journal*, September 1, 2015 "Thong smoothly incorporates Spanish words into her playful verse: 'We share in the foods that our guests loved to eat / fresh fruit and tamales, a holiday treat.'" *Publishers Weekly*, August 24, 2015 "Spanish words are so seamlessly woven throughout the text that readers unfamiliar with the terms will easily grasp their meanings through context and accompanying illustrations — A great choice for readers who celebrate the holiday and those wanting to learn more about it." *Booklist Online*, October 12, 2015 "Thong once again proves her mastery at creating a multicultural picture-book text that engages all readers... The rhyme is rhythmic and effortless, making it a delightful read-aloud... This enchanting presentation of the Dia de los Muertos holiday will resonate with both those who are new to its traditions and those who have been celebrating for generations." *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review, June 1, 2015

Great book for the classroom.

This offers a nice sequence of events for the Day of the Dead holiday which is great for younger kids.

Wonderfully written and beautiful illustrations!

Love this book, even though I'm not good at Spanish.

Excellent.

I first experienced Dia de los Muertos at Hollywood Forever last year. I left impressed with the love, tenderness and humor with which people reflected on their loved ones passed. I've been looking forward to experiencing the holiday--in this small way--again this year. I was thrilled when I saw this book at the bookstore a couple weeks ago. I bought it after reading one page, thinking I'd be happy to share it with my kids if it were reasonably thoughtful and entertaining. I'd like my kids to know a little more about the holiday and see how it fits into life throughout the year; finding something geared more toward them thrilled me, whether it was a mediocre read or a purely delightful one! It was nowhere near a mediocre read. I loved it on my first read, and more on my second. I love how it explains the holiday so accessibly, and with such beautiful pictures. My toddler, who ignores most books (favoring reading the same four over and over), was captivated by the lovely illustrations. I've read this book to my kids every day since we brought it home, and plan on continuing to read it. It's so loving, so affirming, in its explanation, and concludes so sweetly I can't help but smile. This was all the more so when my older child (almost six) asked me what it meant, opening up a lovely discussion. I've only had this book for two weeks, but I imagine I'll feel every bit as enamored of it in a year, two years, or ten.

A catchy rhyme interspersed with Spanish words teaches children about the Dia de Los Muertos and its traditions. I can quite easily see little ones wanting this read repeatedly, since the rhythm of the verse is so catchy. The artwork is simple almost entirely flat shapes and colors, but there are so many tiny details that you'll forget that everything is so simplistic. It's a nice style, which I haven't seen in any Spanish-language children's books as of yet. The only complaint I have about this book is that some of the Spanish vocabulary isn't immediately obvious. Yes, there's a glossary of Spanish terms at the end, but you won't want to leaf back and forth while reading, and kids are unlikely to want to read just a glossary after the rest of the book. So I'd say look up the terms before reading this to your kids so you can explain the few words which they might not understand. Don't feel the need to run out and buy this without trying it from your local library, first, but feel free to give it a shot!

Really fantastic illustrations, with a sweet, simple story. Great book to cover this wonderful tradition!

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