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Rosita And The Night Of The Radishes



Synopsis

Young Rosita competes in Oaxaca, Mexico's radish carving contest which is held every December 23rd. She hopes to win first prize and use the money to help her family's failing farm. This tale of magic realism is suitable for children ages 3 to 8.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

I will admit I'd never heard of the radish carving contest in Oaxaca, Mexico and the thought of carving radishes has never occurred to me. So it was a treat to read this book for the cultural perspective and I really enjoyed the pictures of the actual festival at the end of the book. The book itself is very colorful and appealing with authentic illustrations that bring the story to life. The story itself focuses on Rosita, a lonely only child of very poor parents who work the fields all day while Rosita stays at home. Rosita longs for companionship - there are a couple of boys at the ranch next to her family's, but they are not very nice. But Rosita's parents tell her she can come to town with them on December 23rd for the radish carving contest. Everyone is sure she will do well this year. Going about her daily business, Rosita frees a bird from her cat's grasp. In appreciation, the bird (who happens to be a talking bird) gives her three magic radish seeds and tells her that something wonderful will happen. The seeds grow overnight into large radishes, perfect for carving the three pretend sisters Rosita has in mind. Then it is the big day and Rosita is

sure sheâ™s going to win this time. I like how the story handles the competition â “ that winning isnâ™t the most important thing. But what happens next takes a pretty strong ability to suspend disbelief. The otherwise realistic story incorporates magical elements common to fairy tales and fables. While Rosita may have thought winning the contest was the answer to her dreams, she finds something much important. If you can suspend your disbelief, the story is charming. The story incorporates a number of Spanish words, which are italicized throughout the story.

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