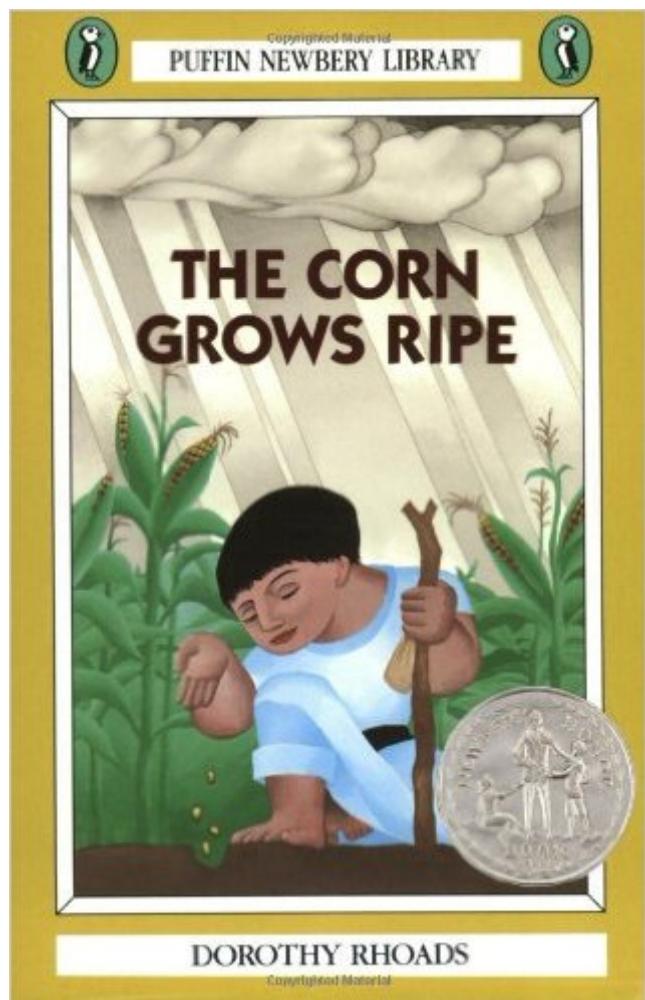


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# The Corn Grows Ripe (Puffin Newbery Library)



## **Synopsis**

When his father is badly injured in an accident, a young Mayan boy called Tigre wonders who will plant and harvest the corn that they need to survive--and to please the Mayan gods.

Twelve-year-old Tigre has never done a man's work before. Now he will have to take his father's place. A Newbery Honor Book.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 750L (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (June 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140363130

ISBN-13: 978-0140363135

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico #235 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

This is one of the best "cultural studies" type books I have read. Dorothy Rhoads has struck a perfect balance between imparting information and telling a good story. Plot-wise, the book shares your typical coming of age story. Tigre, the 12 yr old hero, must suddenly take on new responsibilities when his father is injured. We see his journey as he become more mature and responsible. What sets this book apart is the wealth of rich detail regarding the Mayan culture and way of life. We see Tigre and the villagers and the unique routines, festivals and rituals of the Mayan way of life. The importance of the weather and rain in the society may be eye opening to children who are used to running water and sprinklers, with a foreboding drought providing most of the tension in the story. The characterization in this slim tome is very good. Tigre, his parents, and especially his critical but loving grandmother are all well-crafted. The cultural detail is outstanding, and even better, you get a real sense of how everything related to the community as a whole. The

dichotomy in a culture where the Christian church is important enough that all children are named after Saints, but animal sacrifices are still made to the old gods is especially fascinating. It would be a great springboard for discussion on other religious beliefs. I especially enjoyed a small subplot of Tigre learning more about the world around him through studies with a caring teacher- knowledge that helps him find out the reasons for problems instead of claiming the "will of the gods." I'd have liked more on this subplot. I was also pleased that the author didn't feel the need to stick in some sort of obligatory tragic death to show kids how good they have it now that we have modern medicine.

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