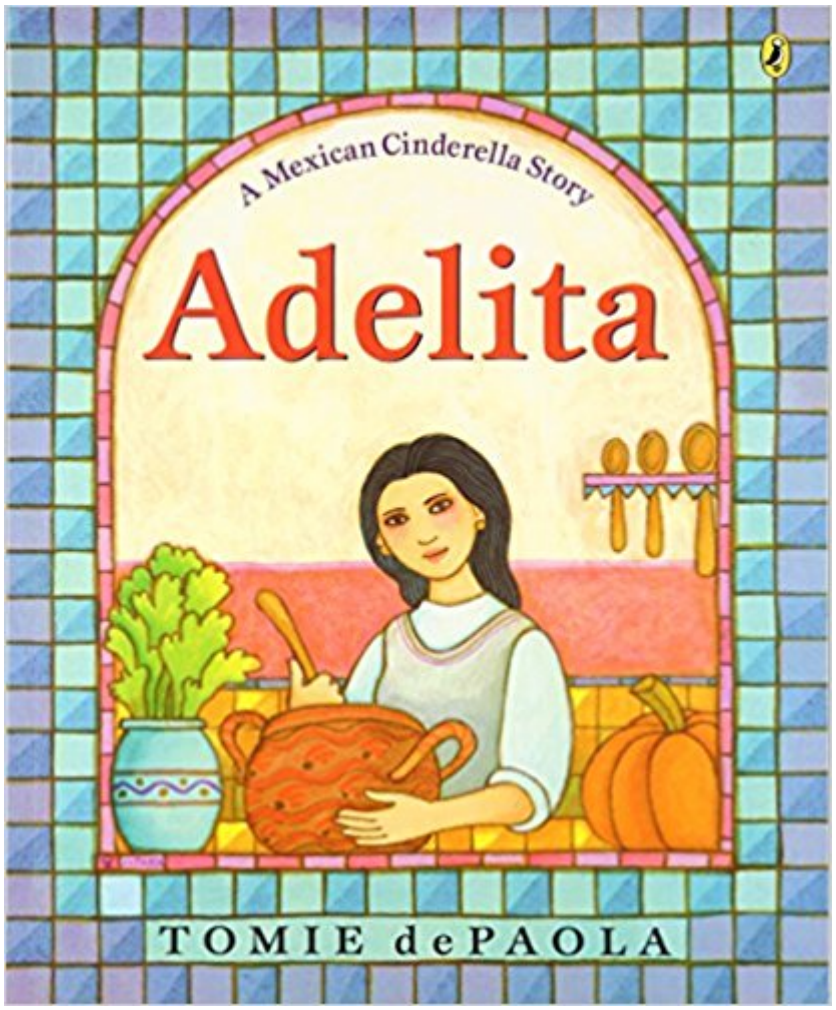
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# Adelita




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## Synopsis

Hace mucho tiempoÃ¢â ¬â •a long time agoÃ¢â ¬â •there lived a beautiful young woman named Adelita. So begins the age-old tale of a kindhearted young woman, her jealous stepmother, two hateful stepsisters, and a young man in search of a wife. The young man, Javier, falls madly in love with beautiful Adelita, but she disappears from his fiesta at midnight, leaving him with only one clue to her hidden identity: a beautiful rebozoÃ¢â ¬â •shawl. With the rebozo in place of a glass slipper, this favorite fairy tale takes a delightful twist. Tomie dePaola's exquisite paintings, filled with the folk art of Mexico, make this a Cinderella story like no other.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD660L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (August 3, 2004)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0142401873

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #70,422 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico #73 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #470 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

There's no pumpkin coach or glass slipper in sight, but Cinderella fans will find much to like in dePaola's (26 Fairmount Avenue) original twist, infused with Mexican warmth and color. Following her father's sudden death, Adelita is left to suffer the abuse of her cruel stepmother and stepsisters. Adelita's kindly nanny/housekeeper takes on the role of fairy godmother, making certain that the girl has something to wear to the party thrown by a local wealthy family to honor their (eligible bachelor) son, Javier. Adelita makes an unforgettable impression at the gala, draped in a dramatic red shawl that was her mother's; Adelita uses it to signal to Javier when he comes looking for her the next day.

DePaola tweaks just enough details to make his version fresh; his liberal use of Spanish phrases (translated within the text) and cultural details enlighten as they enliven. He humorously winks at readers, too, by having his characters refer to the classic story ("All DoÃ Â¤a Micaela and her two daughters could talk about was `the mysterious Cenicienta' [Cinderella] who had appeared and then disappeared from the fiesta, just like the fairy tale"). His vibrant acrylics incorporate folk art motifs as well as rustic domestic items. The jazzy design features mosaic-like tile backgrounds of varying shades that frame smaller panels and portraits throughout. Ages 5-up.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kindergarten-Grade 3-In this folktale variant, lovely Adelita gains a family when her father remarries. Following the traditional story line, Dona Micaela and her daughters, Valentina and Dulce, are utterly impossible, but all is well as long as Adelita's father is alive. However, when he dies, she is relegated to helping in the kitchen. Eventually, Dona Micaela evicts old Esperanza, and her stepdaughter is left to do all the work. On the night of the fiesta at the Gordillos' hacienda, it is Esperanza who takes the fairy godmother role, sends Adelita to the party, and sees to it that young Javier is smitten. True to form, he locates the young woman when she flees, and they marry. The prose is straightforward and crisp, though the habit of including a Spanish phrase that is translated immediately afterward (e.g., "Soy yo-only me-" or "-mi peque-ita-my little one-") interrupts the narrative flow. However, this is a minor quibble given the beauty of dePaola's signature artwork. Making perfect use of clear, warm hues, the full-color acrylic illustrations are a feast for the eye. Depth and brilliance in composition combine with economy of line and form to create a true tour de force. Use this with either Robert D. San Souci's Little Gold Star (HarperCollins, 2000) or Joe Hayes's Little Gold Star/Estrellita de oro (Cinco Puntos, 2000) for different looks at "Cinderella" through Mexican eyes.Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WACopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I grew up with Tomie dePaola books, though I had not read this one before. I'm usually a little wary of the whole 'different culture' version of classic fairytales, but I feel this book does a decent job. Instead of transplanting the fairy godmother, for instance, and making her some magical Mexican figure, she is a woman who has long helped with Adelita's family. The book seems to understand the culture at least more than a painted on style to the Cinderella story, and in fact, Adelita is aware of the Cinderella story, which is refreshing.The book uses the stylistic choice of having a Spanish word or phrase and then following it up with the English, so if you really dislike that, it may bother

you. I won’t say this is his best book, but it is good, the art is delightful, and I would have little qualms about giving this to a child in my life. It certainly wouldn’t be a stand in for a good introduction to Mexican culture, but it is a good story.

I adore Tomie dePaola and this story is wonderful. His artwork is always so cheerful and he retells stories with such passion.

Love the book. Perfect for young ones!

In Tomie dePaola’s cultured story of Adelita, the Mexican Cinderella, pretty young Adelita’s mother dies, leaving her daughter and husband. Later on, Adelita’s sad father marries another lady who has two daughters. Adelita’s new stepmother and stepsisters are mean, but still she finds happiness and love at the end of the story. Great story and beautiful illustrations! This is a great book!

A fantastic Mexican version of Cinderella. What’s great, too, if you don’t know Spanish, is that these rarely sprinkled words and phrases used in the narrative can be skipped since the English appositive comes right after. Even if your listener (I read to children) isn’t familiar with the English Cinderella, this will still delight them with its characters and suspense. The illustrations are large, colorful, and simple. I’m sure the reader/listener will cheer at the end of the reading. Differing from one reviewer, I DO think this is one of dePaola’s best stories.Picture Book: Grades 1-4, Fiction/Fairy Tale

I have 10 different multicultural Cinderella books I use to teach CC benchmarks and standards in my middle school classroom. Students work in small groups.

Purchased for my classroom. Children loved the books. They were at a level east for all students to read and enjoy.

I collect cinderella books and use a enn diagram from Mailbox magazine to compare the new versions to the original. Our school adopted mexico as our multicultural focus and this book worked wonderfully.

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