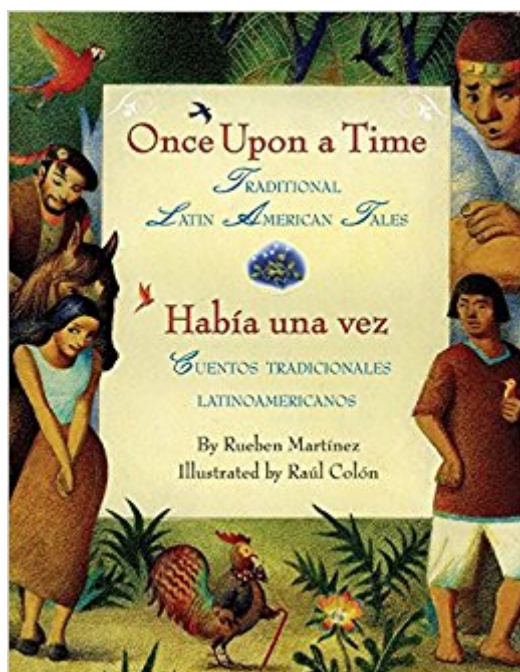


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# Once Upon A Time/Habia Una Vez: Traditional Latin American Tales/ Cuentos Tradicionales Latinoamericanos (Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

Enter an enchanted world of kings and giants, where cockroaches play dress-up and coyotes fly to the moon! In this lively bilingual collection of short stories, Spain and Latin America's most beloved tales are retold for a new generation. From the grateful rooster who cries "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" to the awesome spirit of the Mother of the Jungle, Once Upon a Time/Habia una vez celebrates seven traditional folktales and tells them in a colorful, fresh voice. In these magical adventures that are sure to delight, readers young and old will meet some of the world's most memorable heroes and charming tricksters. Entra a un mundo encantado de reyes y gigantes, donde las cucarachas se visten de gala y los coyotes vuelan a la luna! En esta colección de cuentos bilingüe, encontrarás las historias más preciadas de España y Latinoamérica, reinventadas aquí para una nueva generación. Del gallo agradecido que grita "¡Quiquiriquí!" al poderoso espíritu de la Madre Selva, Once Upon a Time/Habia una vez celebra siete cuentos tanto populares como tradicionales. En estas aventuras mágicas que sin duda te agradarán, conocerás a héroes memorables y a personajes encantadores.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 950L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Rayo; Bilingual edition (March 9, 2010)

Language: Spanish

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #561,503 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #176 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #724 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections #991 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Spanish

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 5

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 5 "La cucaracha Martina, El gallo de bodas,"

La Madreselva, and La flor de lirolay are among the classics of Latin American lore presented here in delightful bilingual versions. Martínez retells seven stories in pleasant, uncomplicated prose and nothing has been lost in Unger's masterful translation. Readers will delight in Martina, clad in her best garb, happily dancing the night away with elegant and courteous Pérez and will experience a chill when the mother of the jungle comes out to meet the man destroying her home. Colón's vivid mixed-media illustrations are large and colorful, and have an appropriate touch of the dramatic, seizing readers' attention. This handsome book will enchant youngsters and adults alike. It's an excellent resource for Latino storytelling sessions. —Narda McCarthy, Para Los Niños Consultant, Weston, FL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

MacArthur Fellow Martínez presents seven classic Latin American folktales of varying themes, all chosen because they are dear to his heart. • Culled from diverse countries, including Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Spain, the stories feature characters such as Martina the Cockroach, the Wedding Rooster, Madremonte (Mother of the Jungle), and the trickster Tlacuache (opossum). Averaging a dozen pages of bilingual text in English and Spanish, each story features a colorful, appealing full-page illustration, and attentive viewers may catch a few discrepancies between the images and the scenes described in the words. On one page, for example, the Mother of the Jungle appears with short tresses while the text states that she has extremely long hair. • Martínez occasionally relies on choppy non sequiturs, and his narratives lack the literary and folkloric flair of Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy's work. Nonetheless, his interpretations read aloud well (especially in Spanish) and make a strong contribution to a still relatively empty canon of bilingual, Latin American folktale offerings. Grades 1-4. --Andrew Medlar

A beautifully written picture book that I will absolutely pass down to my children when they learn the Spanish language! Wonderful for enjoyment and learning!

Even though it was a different content to what I expected, the book has a beautiful presentation. Another plus is that it is bilingual. I like it!

My siblings and I grew up with Spanish at home, and I enjoy great advantages, today, that I attribute to being bilingual. So, when my goddaughters were born (they're twins), I set about to ensure that they would grow up with the same advantages. Their Spanish-speaking nanny, aided and guided

with native speaker learning aids are assuring fluency...Key to success in nurturing bilinguality is finding age-appropriate learning materials --videos, books, games-- and has been a fabulous source for such material.Â Once Upon a Time/Habia una vez: Traditional Latin American Tales/ Cuentos tradicionales latinoamericanos (Spanish Edition)Â is a perfect example ... they are now 3 1/2 years of age.

I really enjoy this book and I am looking forward to reading to my son! The stories are very detailed and entertaining.

Going back, not what I expected.

This is a fun book of seven traditional Latin American tales. At the end of each tale, there's a brief paragraph about the history/geography of the story. There's a lot of variety in place of origin/place of popularity, which I appreciated. The translation is good overall. It's not direct, but it's quite faithful, and it's close enough that looking back and forth between the two languages can help with most unknown words (and will always help for unknown sentences/phrases). This is much more fun to read in Spanish, though. That's where the storytelling is most natural, where the idioms and storytelling phrases all feel right. There's really one illustration per story, and the stories average around 10 pages of text. Colon's work is, as usual, excellent, but don't expect a picture book.

The seven stories -- "The Wedding Rooster," "The Tlacuache [Opossum] and the Coyote," "The Mother of the Jungle," "Martina the Cockroach and PÃ©rez the Mouse," "The Flower of Lirolay," "The King and the Riddle," and "Pedro Urdemales and the Giant" -- are wonderful in both English and Spanish. HoweverÃ¢ÂÂÂÂIn the best picture books for kids, such as Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown, Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats, Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle, Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, and DonÃ¢ÂÂÂÂt Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems, the reader delights in the illustrations on many of the pages that complement the text. In contrast, despite the lovely image on the dust jacket that is repeated on the covers, inside this book only a few of the pages have relevant illustrations. Let me use the first story, "The Wedding Rooster" ("El Gallo de Bodas") on pages 11-19, as an example. Page 11 has a glorious full-page mixed-media illustration showing the titular rooster and a corn cob. But pages 12-19 have only small illustrations of clouds at the tops of the pages, of a trail at the bottoms of the pages, of a black bird (for the English text), of a red bird (for

the Spanish text), of the sun (at the beginning and at the end), and of the moon and stars. None of the illustrations on pages 12-19 is unique to "The Wedding Rooster"; that is, each is repeated throughout the book. In terms of percentage of space devoted to pertinent illustrations, only one story -- "The Flower of Lirolay" -- comes close to being acceptable. It has three illustrations germane to the story: on the first page we see the king and his sons, on the second page we see a flower, and in the middle of the story we see a tree with musical notes wrapping around it. It would have been better for all the stories to have at least four related illustrations.

As the other reviewers have written, the book's illustrations are well done and the stories are well chosen. I have one problem with the book and this would only apply for Spanish learners. I chose the book because it is bilingual and I could learn some vocabulary and common usage.

Unfortunately, the translations are fairly loose. I don't ever expect translations to be word for word, as it makes it unreadable, but this translation takes a lot of liberties, and I think, unnecessarily. So if you are not using it to learn either language, it is a fun book.

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