

Rattlestiltskin

Written by Eric A. Kimmel

Illustrated by Erin Camarca

(WestWinds Press®, \$16.99, 9781943328383)

Rosalia is in debt to the strange little snake man Rattlestiltskin after he teaches her how to make tortillas so light they float in the air! Can she outsmart the trickster and keep her freedom? From renowned children's book author Eric A. Kimmel comes this delightful reimagining of the classic Rumpelstiltskin with a Southwestern setting and Spanish vocabulary.

Reading/Writing/Language Arts

Read *Rattlestiltskin* and answer the following questions:

1. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9) *Rattlestiltskin* is based on a classic folktale you may have heard before called *Rumpelstiltskin*. How is this story similar to the original tale of Rumpelstiltskin? How is it different?
2. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3) Why did Rosalia have to guess Rattlestiltskin's name?
3. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1) What language do you think Rosalia and her mother speak at home? Give examples from the story to support why you think that.
4. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1) What did Rattlestiltskin want Rosalia to do for him? Do you think that was a fair trade for the floating tortilla secret? Why or why not?

Writing:

1. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3) Pick a different well-known folk tale or fairy tale, and rewrite it so that it takes place with new characters in your own area. What details should you include so that people recognize your part of the country in the story?
2. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3) In this story, Rosalia gets to live happily ever after with her mother in the hacienda. Imagine another way this story could have ended. Write your new ending, and then trade with a classmate to compare.

English & Spanish Vocabulary:

Teacher note: Some of these terms may be above grade level for your group. Pre-teaching vocabulary in context should help students with comprehension.

Many of these words would be appropriate for a bilingual classroom or a group looking for exposure to local culture and world languages. Several terms are common idioms used in Mexico rather than standard Spanish. In most cases, the book includes the English translation directly after the Spanish expression.

English terms fall under Tiers II and III for the Common Core State Standards. Spanish words and phrases are shown with their translations in parentheses.

Spanish phrases and idioms:

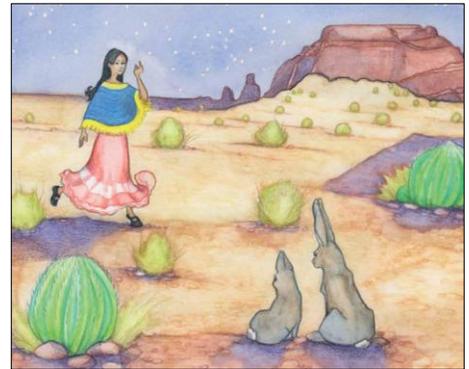
no manches (come on)
 hijole (indeed)
 El Patrón (the richest man in town)
 hacienda (large house)
 hija (my daughter)
 que será, sera (what will be, will be)
 aguas (watch out)
 qué onda, chava? (what's going on?)
 no hay problema (it's no problem)

hasta luego (see you later)
 ahora, cómo me llamo? (now, what's my name?)
 ven conmigo (come with me)
 vámonos (let's go)
 un momentito! (just a minute!)
 hasta mañana (see you tomorrow)
 no quejes tanto (stop complaining)

Vocabulary words:

hacienda
 adobe
 griddle
 fortune
 masa (corn flour)
 braggarts
 cactus
 cinders

whispered
 amazed
 snaky
 promenade
 fiddler
 rattling
 buzzing



1. Assign each phrase or term to a pair of students. Have student pairs act out the term or design a visual display to teach the word or phrase to their classmates. Spanish-speaking students in the class can be a resource for correct pronunciation.
2. *Rattlestiltskin* Word Find:
 Find these words from *Rattlestiltskin*. They are hidden forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

f p l e y e r l r f s h
 c t r k n e b a d t s a
 o a a o l u t o r g r c
 k n c d m t t a d t e i
 s x d t l e g r w a d e
 b i r i u g n y o p n n
 f w n m a s a a d f i d
 a g p r m v t e d y c a
 b i b u z z i n g e z d
 y p e l d d i r g p c u
 d e z a m a y c m j n v
 w h i s p e r e d y c d

hacienda
 adobe
 griddle
 fortune
 masa
 braggarts
 cactus
 cinders
 whispered
 amazed
 snaky
 promenade
 fiddler
 rattling
 buzzing

Science/Natural History/Geography

(See also the questions in the reading and writing sections.)

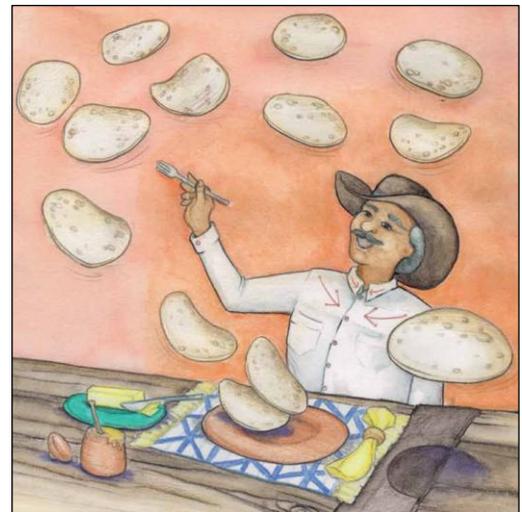
1. *Rattlestiltskin* takes place in a desert. What plants and animals could you find there? Look at the pictures in the book for ideas. You can research more desert plants and animals in the library or online. Draw a picture to show what you learn about the desert.
2. At the end of the story, Rattlestiltskin "... began rattling and buzzing until he rattled and buzzed himself to pieces. All that was left was an empty snakeskin lying on the floor."

In nature, finding a snakeskin doesn't necessarily mean the snake has died. Snakes shed their skin as they grow, and people often find these cast-offs out in the wild. With a partner, research how and why snakes shed their skin. Are there any other animals that do this? Check the library or online for answers!

Math

Kindergarten: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.CC.B.5)

- How many fluffy tortillas did Don Ignacio have for his breakfast? Count the tortillas in the picture at right.



Grade 1: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.OA.A.1)

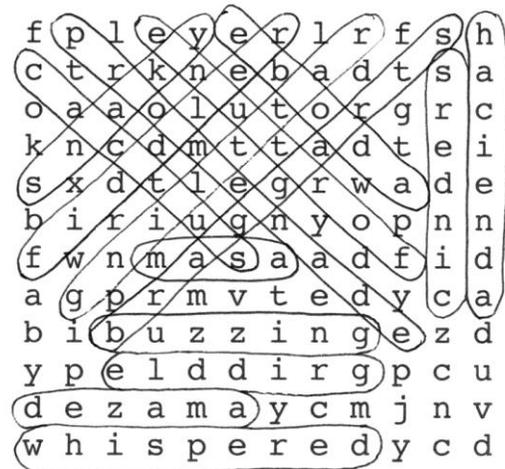
- Rosalia made 12 tortillas, but then 5 of them floated away! She made 3 more before Don Ignacio came down for lunch. How many tortillas did she have in all to serve to Don Ignacio? Draw a picture to help you solve this problem.

Grade 2: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.OA.A.1)

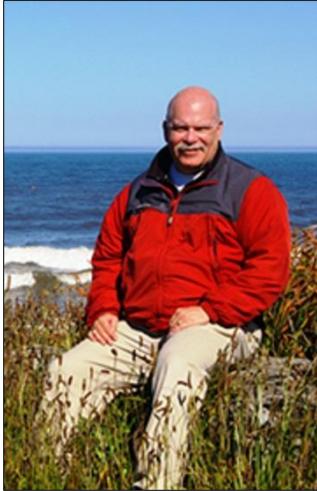
- Don Ignacio wanted 100 tortillas to serve to his guests at a party. Rosalia made 47 tortillas before she got tired and took a nap. When she awoke, she made 32 more. When Don Ignacio walked in, he demanded, "Ay, ay, ay! Aren't you done making those tortillas for the party yet?" How many more tortillas does Rosalia need to make to have 100 for the party? Use drawings and/or equations to help solve this problem.

Grade 3: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.OA.A.3)

- Rosalia made 84 tortillas that were light as clouds. Don Ignacio was so impressed that he invited 6 of his best friends for dinner. Rosalia divided the tortillas evenly so that Don Ignacio and all of his friends had the same amount. How many tortillas did each man have for dinner? (Remember that Don Ignacio ate, too!) Use drawings and/or equations to help you solve this problem.



Word Find Solution:



About the author:

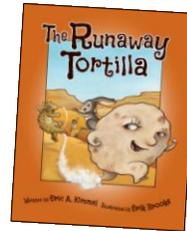
Award-winning author Eric A. Kimmel is a native of New York who taught teachers as a professor of Education at Indiana University at South Bend and Portland State University. His favorite classes were children’s literature, language arts, storytelling, and handwriting. He left the university in 1993 to become a full-time writer, a dream he had had since kindergarten. Eric has written more than fifty books and has won numerous awards, including the Caldecott Honor Medal. He and his wife, Doris, live in Portland, Oregon.

Want another fractured fairytale set in the Southwest with Spanish vocabulary? Check out Eric’s *The Runaway Tortilla* 9781943328703, illustrated by Children’s Choice Award Winner Erik Brooks.



About the illustrator:

Erin Camarca’s medium is colored pencil and the vast beauty of the Southwest provides her inspiration. A native of Durango, Colorado, she has displayed her artwork in shows locally and throughout the region. She lives there with her husband and son and a bevy of farmyard friends. This is her first book.



About The Publisher:

Graphic Arts Books’s mission is to connect readers with exceptional authors, illustrators, and photographers and their inspiring work by developing books of value with regional focus and of national note utilizing emerging technology in print and e-book publishing. More of our children’s books and activity guides at: www.GraphicArtsBooks.com

