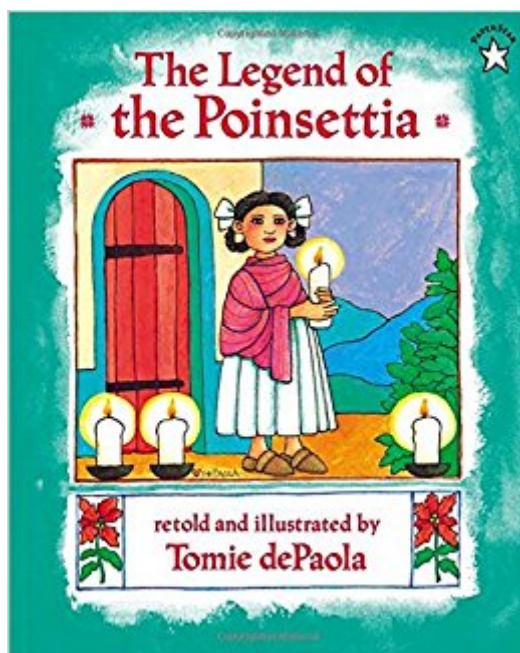


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The Legend Of The Poinsettia



Synopsis

In Mexico, the poinsettia is called flor de la Nochebuena flower of the Holy Night. At Christmastime, the flower blooms and flourishes, the quite exquisite red stars lighting up the countryside. This Mexican legend tells how the poinsettia came to be, through a little girl's unselfish gift to the Christ Child. Beloved Newbery honor-winning author and Caldecott honor-winning illustrator Tomie dePaola has embraced the legend using his own special feeling for Christmas. His glorious paintings capture not only the brilliant colors of Mexico and its art, but also the excitement of the children preparing for Christmas and the hope of Lucida, who comes to see what makes a gift truly beautiful.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD680L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 6, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698115678

ISBN-13: 978-0698115675

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 98 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,316 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Holidays & Celebrations](#) #65 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#) #227 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

In the tradition of his *The Legend of the Bluebonnet* and *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*, dePaola offers another gracious retelling of a timeless folktale. His skillfully pared-down narrative and paintings that glow with strong colors present the story of a well-intentioned Mexican child, Lucida. Distressed because she has no other gift to offer Baby Jesus, she carries into the church an armful of weeds, each of which suddenly becomes "tipped with a flaming red star"-marking the miraculous blooming of the first poinsettias. Released simultaneously in English-and

Spanish-language editions. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ages 5-9. In this legend from Mexico, a little girl, Lucinda, is proud to help her mother weave a new blanket for the Baby Jesus to be used in a Christmas procession. But when Lucinda's mother takes ill, Lucinda tangles the yarn and is unable to complete the blanket. Feeling she has ruined Christmas, Lucinda is reluctant to go to the procession until a mysterious old woman appears from the shadows and tells Lucinda, "Any gift is beautiful because it is given. Whatever you give, the Baby Jesus will love because it comes from you." Nervously, Lucinda grabs an armful of weeds, which she brings into the church. As she prays, the weeds open into dazzling red flowers that decorate the altar. The story has a simple dignity, but it is the artwork that takes center stage here. The spreads, which feature everyday occurrences (set in a generic era), are magnificently staged and colored and culminate in the last spread--Lucinda praying at a crŠche, with a profusion of poinsettias decorating the pages. An author's note gives the origin of the story as well as facts about the poinsettia plant and its Christmas connections. Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tomie dePaola is another one of my favorite author/illustrators. While reading this book to my daughter last Christmas I actually learned about the legend behind the Poinsettia. Up until the point of reading this book, I didn't even know there was a legend behind this. This is another great book to add to your holiday reading list. The whole family can learn something new!

The book was sent quickly and in the condition advertised. I am glad to have it to read aloud in my classroom for years to come while presenting customs and learning about culture through legends to my First Graders.

Love reading this to my grandson. The best author!

Great book to celebrate The Three Kings!

I used this book when teaching Christmas customs from cultures around the world. Great story with fun illustrations about how the poinsettia came to be part of Christmas tradition.

Read with my granddaughters during my nights before Christmas about different cultures celebrations of the holiday. I had Poinsettia plants to show the real thing while reading this book.

Book arrived on time in the promised condition. It is a beautiful story that my 2nd grade students enjoyed.

I used to read dePaola's stories as a child and loved the artistry and poignant stories. I revisited this story as a grown man and still love the tale. Nostalgic and warm, I love this story.

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