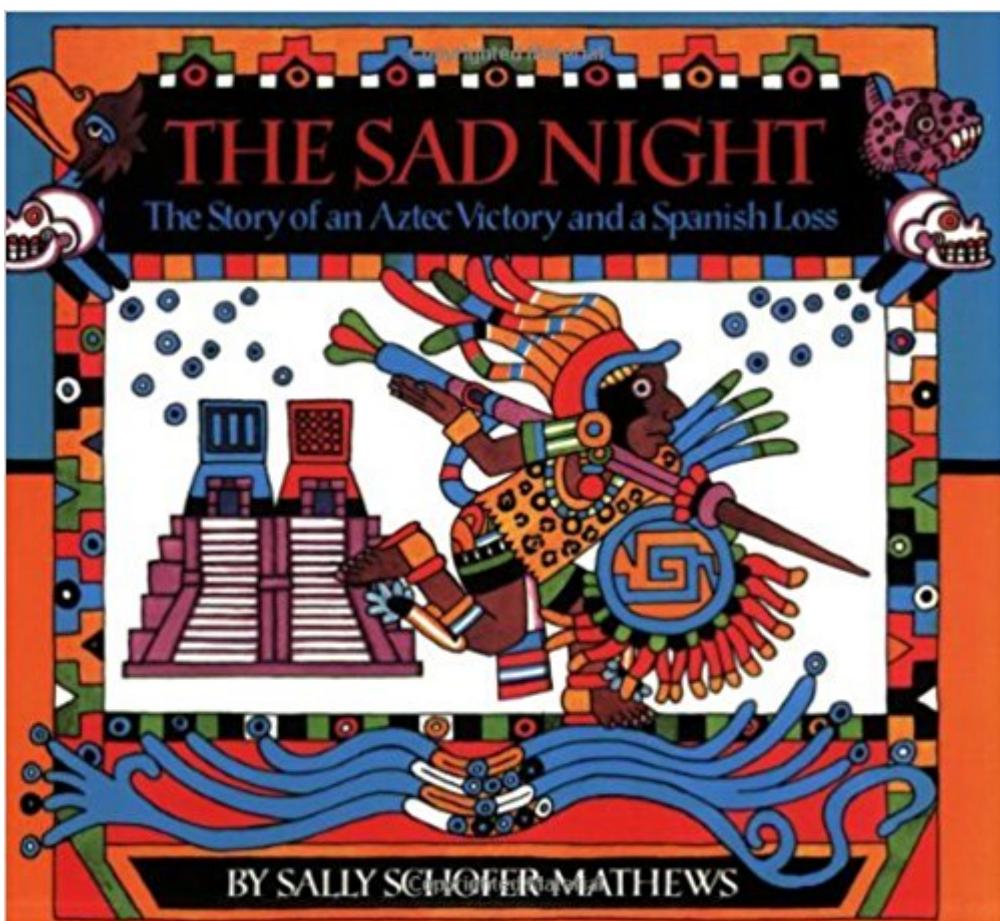


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The Sad Night: The Story Of An Aztec Victory And A Spanish Loss



Synopsis

“This sensitive treatment of La Noche Triste, or The Sad Night, the last battle the Aztecs won against the Spaniards, is a highly effective melding of graceful, lucid text and stylized art. Designed to resemble Aztec codices, the illustrations appear in double-page strips above the bordered text. Beginning with the Aztec migration to Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City), the history of this people is traced through their final conquest by Cortés and his forces. . . . This title has the distinction of combining myth with historical fact in a particularly successful manner. An engaging introduction to Mexican history.” •School Library Journal

Book Information

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

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Expertly weaving dialogue into her absorbing account, Mathews chronicles the fateful encounter that paved the way for the Spaniards' conquest of Mexico more than 400 years ago. As she sets the stage, Mathews explains how the Aztecs, under Moctezuma, vanquished other tribes to establish an expansive empire based on the island of Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City. When Spanish soldiers entered the city in 1519, Moctezuma mistook their leader, Hernan Cortes, for a god and offered him gold and jewels. The arrival of a second fleet of Spanish ships led to the battle that took place on "The Sad Night

Grade 3-6-This sensitive treatment of La Noche Triste, or The Sad Night, the last battle the Aztecs

won against the Spaniards, is a highly effective melding of graceful, lucid text and stylized art. Designed to resemble Aztec codices (most of which were destroyed by the Spaniards), the illustrations appear in double-page strips above the bordered text. Beginning with the Aztec migration to Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City), the history of this people is traced through their final conquest by Cortes's forces. Though the figures in the paintings are small, the action is clearly discernible. Indeed, children can "read" the story from these expressive illustrations. The final three pages of the book give more detailed information on the Aztecs and Cortes, including an explanation of the Aztec calendar. Similar in narrative and illustrative style to Deborah Nourse Lattimore's *Why There Is No Arguing in Heaven* (1989) and *The Flame of Peace* (1987, both HarperCollins), this title has the distinction of combining myth with historical fact in a particularly successful manner. An engaging introduction to Mexican history. Ann Welton, Terminal Park Elementary School, Auburn, WA
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Review from a 10 year old Student: The sad night is a picture book about how the Spanish invaded the Aztec empire. It starts out with the Aztecs looking for a place with an eagle on a cactus with a rattlesnake in its beak to build an empire then it skips ahead to Hernan Cortéz's arrival in Mexico. It talks about most of the details from how the Aztecs thought that he was a god to when he came back and conquered them. It also has pictures similar to what the Aztecs would have put in their books or codices. If you are a kid who is interested in the Aztecs or the Spanish then this is definitely a book you want to read.

I have used this book to teach intermediate grades about the Aztecs and it has been a surprising favorite of my students for years. The rich illustrations add to the story and enhance the historical elements of the book. This one is not to be missed!

I ordered a series of books on central and south American cultures for my 7th graders to use as quick references on a Latin American Cultures Historical Fiction project. What a fantastic and retelling! The illustrations are intricate and the students listened attentively as I read this aloud in class. Excellent book!

Beautiful book. I wouldn't recommend for a read-aloud. Its a little to long, but nonetheless; a great book for enrichment.

Nice book with excellent pictorials. Love the structure of it and the well done work resulting in a beautiful layout worth reading to the children about our ancestors.

The characters of this book are Hernando Cortez, a spanish soldier, and Moctezuma the Second, the king of the Aztecs. This all takes place in Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital city and home of the Aztecs. Cortez and his men want Moctezuma to protect them from any possible danger, but Moctezuma says that his kingdom is peaceful enough and they do not need protection. So, Cortez and his army kidnap Moctezuma and then, when the Aztecs find out, the battle begins. It is great when Cortez loses his men during the battle at the end because of the way the author tells the story. This book is good for children who are interested in history about famous explorers. Cady

This book borders on Snoozeville. It's positively almost really boring, but on the plus side it is very informational without a lot of boring facts, and I learned something from reading it. The book isn't great, and isn't bad. I guess I would describe it as an illustrated historical account. If you're trying to teach some aspect of history then buy it, but if you thought it might be fun to read then I wouldn't recommend it.

This book has been beloved by my kids and nieces/nephews to read each and every year, from age 4 to age 13. I just attended the Aztec exhibit at the British Museum in London, and realized I knew and understood most of the exhibit from reading "The Sad Night". My mom and I were amazed at how historically accurate the story and drawings were to the Aztec iconography, while still being really interesting to look at and read for kids. This is such a worthwhile book because kids keep coming back to it. It is so well done. Yes, it's somewhat bloody in its story of war and conquest, but that's what really happened. I'm going to get it for our school library.

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