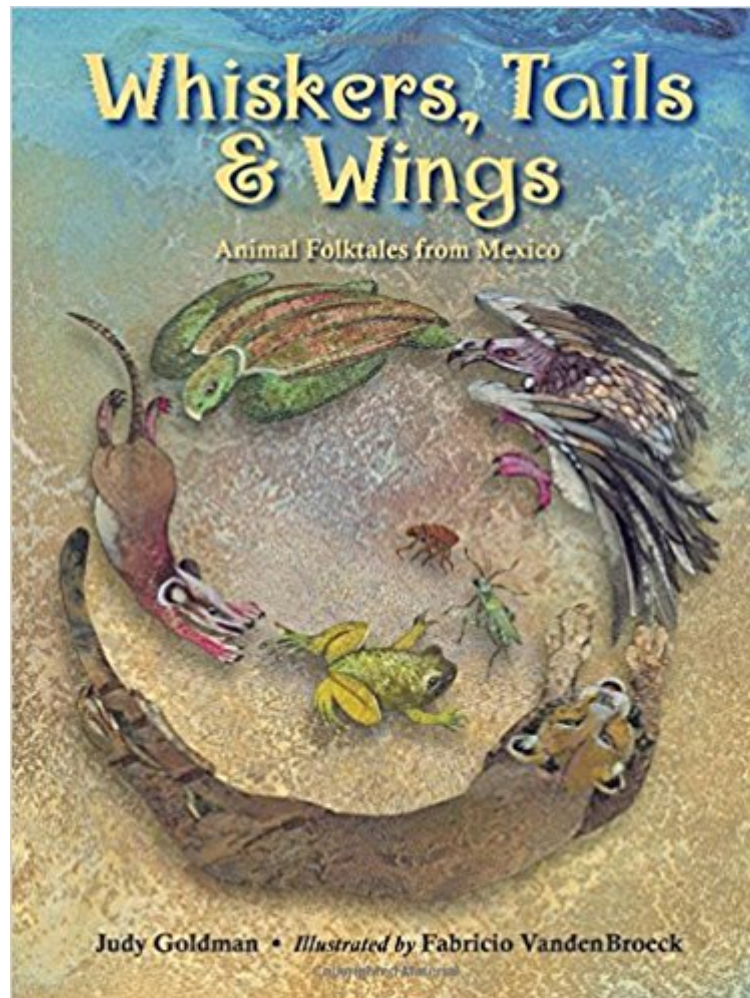




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Whiskers, Tails & Wings: Animal Folktales From Mexico



Synopsis

Judy Goldman retells animal folktales from five indigenous groups in Mexico--the Tarahumara, Seri, Huichol, Triqui, and Tseltal. Each story is followed by information about the featured culture, enriching readers' understanding of the diverse peoples who make up Mexico. Fabricio VandenBroeck's lush art portrays the richness of the many peoples, animals, and places that make up Mexico. Includes a map of Mexico, showing the location of each indigenous group. Back matter includes a glossary and tale sources, as well as an index and a bibliography.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-6 "This well-crafted resource offers folktales from five indigenous peoples of Mexico. Each tale is accompanied by an overview of the group's culture and history and a glossary. The Tarahumara tale, "When Se' or Grillo Met Se' or Puma," is a classic story of a feisty cricket who outsmarts an arrogant puma and his friends. In the Seri tale, "Mosni's Search," a patient sea turtle is the last animal chosen by the god of creation to retrieve sand from the sea bottom, and she is ultimately the one who succeeds. The Huichol tale, "Tlacuache's Tail," features an opossum that steals fire to share with the people and in the process winds up with a hairless, burnt tail. He finds he can use it for hanging upside down, and his resourcefulness is celebrated. The

Triqui people live in the Oaxacan region; their tale, "Ouch!" celebrates the lowly flea and tells why he was created. The Tseltal live in the Chiapas region, and they are part of the Mayan ethnic group. "Pokok Up High" relates what happens when a frog asks a vulture to carry him aloft. The tales are straightforward and lively, and this novel approach to cultural studies should prove welcome and useful. The richly detailed illustrations, done in acrylics and watercolor on custom paper and completed digitally, add to the book's appealing design.

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We now know why fleas exist: to keep humans from being lazy! We also know that opossums once had furry tails and frogs yearned to fly but learned better. In Goldman's compendium of delightful folktales from five indigenous Mexican cultures, she explains such mysteries of life. From "When Señor Grillo Met Señor Puma" to "Pokok up High," each tale is accompanied by an account of the lives of the people from whom it originates and a glossary of non-English words. Colorful traditional art, done in acrylic and watercolor on texturized paper, brings the tales and people to life. Grades 4-6. --Amina Chaudhri

Loved the book - great drawings and stories.

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