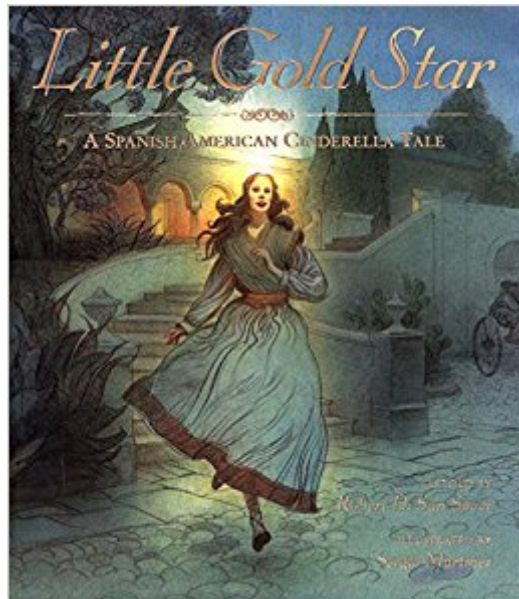


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# Little Gold Star: A Spanish American Cinderella Tale



## Synopsis

Blessed Mary rewards Teresa's good deeds with a shining gold star. Later she punishes Teresa's unkind stepsisters, Isabel and Inez, with hideous horns and donkey's ears that they try to hide under heavy veils! But will Teresa outshine her stepsisters at the festival? Robert D. San Souci retells this popular folktale in a lilting narrative that includes all the magic of the beloved Cinderella story and traditional elements from Spanish tales. Luminous watercolors by Sergio Martinez accentuate the beauty and goodness that radiate from Little Gold Star. A Selection of the Junior Library GuildA Selection of Nest Literary Classics

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD640L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688147801

ISBN-13: 978-0688147808

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #708,484 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies](#) #562 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #670 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-5-To add to Jewell Reinhart Coburn's *Domitila* (Shen's, 2000) and Joe Hayes's *Little Gold Star/Estrellita de oro* (Cinco Puntos, 2000), comes San Souci's variant of the same story. Sweet young Teresa lives peacefully with her father, Tom s, in the high hills of New Mexico. He tends sheep, and she keeps house. Their measured existence is shattered when an opportunistic widow with two daughters persuades Tom s to marry her. On a rare visit home, Tom s brings a lamb to his daughter. The outraged stepmother kills it and sends the brokenhearted girl to wash its fleece in the river. The fleece is snatched by a fish, and as Teresa begins to cry, a lovely woman in blue appears

and promises to get it back if she will tend to the old man and the baby in a hut on the hill. Teresa does so gladly, not knowing that the woman is the Virgin Mary and that she has been asked to care for the Holy Family. Her reward is a gold star, planted in the middle of her forehead. When she returns home, the stepmother is again enraged, but sends her daughters to do the same and receive gold stars. The results are disastrous. From this point on, the story follows the traditional tale, until the satisfying ending when the Blessed Virgin again helps the young woman. San Souci's telling is smooth and fluid. Martinez's lovely, luminous watercolor illustrations are a perfect match for the text. His accomplished sense of extended line gives all of his figures a romantic, elongated look, and his command of expression is exceptional. A noteworthy addition to an already impressive crop of Southwestern "Cinderella" stories. Ann Welton, Terminal Park Elementary School, Auburn, WA  
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Gr. 2-4, younger for reading aloud. The author of *Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella* (1998) and the new *Cinderella Skeleton* [BKL S 1 00] here gives the ever-popular picture-book tale a Southwestern flavor. While washing the fleece of a lamb her cruel stepmother has killed, Teresa meets the Blessed Mary, who asks her to tend old Joseph and the Holy Infant. When Teresa is finished, Mary returns and rewards her with a touch that places a gold star on her forehead. When her callous, clumsy sisters rush off for similar decorations, they are given not stars but goat horns and donkey ears. In Sergio Martinez's elegant Hispanic settings, Teresa and her beau, Don Miguel, are slender, graceful figures, comically juxtaposed against Teresa's lumpish, elaborately dressed stepmother and stepsisters, who are portrayed with exaggerated expressions of dismay or annoyance. Mary reappears to help Teresa secure her stepmother's permission to marry, and by the unalloyed happy ending, horns and hairy ears have vanished, too. Cinderella fans have to be rapid readers to keep up with the steady stream of new renditions, but this consolidation of old and new published versions mixes laughter and romance in pleasing proportion--and features an unusual (to say the least) fairy godmother. A source note is provided. John Peters  
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The book arrived promptly and in near excellent condition. I am expecting to use or have it used in middle School Multi-Cultural Cinderella Unit where I think it will be very well received. A nice addition to the unit.

I collect fables, fairytale from all over, this was a used library book , but the condition was excellent!

beautiful illustrations and a lovely tale! Will be reading this to my children for years to come!

Liked the story.

My daughter (9) loves this book. It is a version of the Cinderella story. The story is engaging and the illustrations are fine as well. Rick

Robert D. San Souci always does such good work. I look for his books when I am wanting special gifts for children. This book is a wonderful addition to the Cinderella collection. It is also a very nice book to use around the Christmas season with children. The story is very sweet with a lot of Cinderella touches. The illustrations are lovely and the tone is most suitable. This is one of my favorites.

Little Gold Star offers a wonderful blend of story and illustrations from San Souci and Martinez. Little Gold Star is a Spanish American fairy tale similar to Cinderella. However, the role of fairy godmother is filled by Blessed Mary, showing the traditional Catholic influence in this culture. San Souci is always wonderful with words, but Martinez gives the story a serene beauty with his illustrations. The book has a peaceful feeling with its subdued tones. The reader knows the story will end happily and enjoys the journey to the end all the same. I highly recommend this book.

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