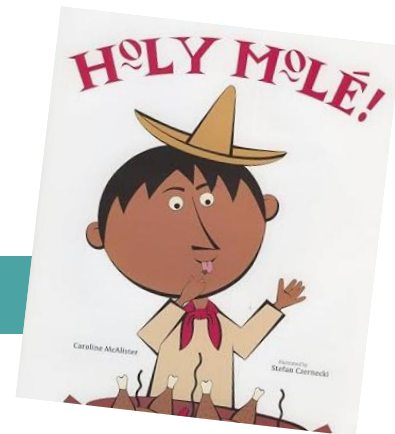




Holy Molé!: A Folktale from Mexico

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Mexican heritage, Cooking, Growth

Book Brief: The story explores the legendary origins of Mexico's famous chocolate-spiced sauce, molé. When a surprise visit from a Spanish Viceroy sends a monastery kitchen into a panic, a young boy named Carlos accidentally helps create a culinary masterpiece.

Author:
Caroline McAlister

Illustrator:
Stefan Czernecki

Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you tried to help and maybe it didn't turn out the way you thought it would, good or bad?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how a young boy was working in a kitchen and let curiosity get the best of him. Did he help or hurt the situation of preparing a special meal for a very important visitor to the monastery?"

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Who are the main characters in the story?
- What are the brothers worried about?
- Why did Brother Pascual think that it would be difficult to make a meal for the Viceroy?
- Who is the Viceroy?
- What did Pascual tell the older brothers to do to get ready for the visit?
- What did Carlos think would happen to him because of the accident he caused?
- What did you learn about molé, the chocolate-spiced sauce, from this folktale?



Think Aloud:

"I notice that the young boy was inexperienced but willing to work hard in the kitchen."

"I'm wondering..." "Have you ever wanted to help but was afraid of making a mistake?"

After Reading

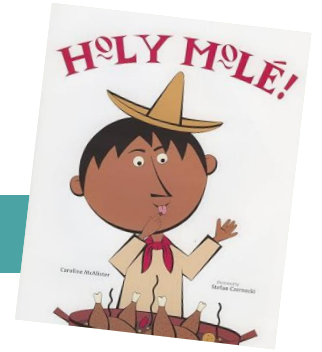
Our Purpose: "How did the young boy help the monastery brothers with the special meal?"

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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Extension Activities



Create Sentences

Directions:

- Word list: squatted, feathers, tortillas, impression, chocolate, chilies, ingredients, seasonings, stew, miracle
- Write one word from the list on the board and ask students read the word.
- Ask a student to create a 5-word sentence using the word.
- Ask another student to create a 6-word sentence using the word.
- Then ask another student to create a 7-word sentence using the word.
- Repeat the activity with all of the words.

OPTIONAL: Ask students to work with a partner and write a sentence using as many of the words from the list as possible. Share sentences with the class.

Drawing

Materials:

- drawing paper
- pencils and pens
- crayons and markers

Directions:

- Instruct students to draw their favorite parts of the story.
- Share drawings with the class.
- Students explain their choices.
- Teacher creates a bar graph to show which parts of the story were the most popular.

Create a Magazine Ad

Directions:

- Inform students that the word “molé” can refer to a stew or sauce.
- Students work with a partner to create a magazine advertisement for the molé sauce.
- Share advertisements with the class.
 1. What will the sauce be named?
 2. Who is the target audience for advertisement?
 3. How will the intended audience determine the design for the ad?
 4. Will the advertisement be in one specific magazine or will the same ad appear in many publications?