

Too Many Tamales

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

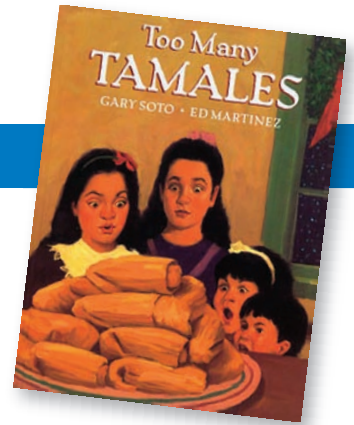
Themes: Latino Culture, Holidays, Family, Honesty

Grade Level: K to 3rd grade

Book Brief: Maria and her cousins put their stomachs to the test to find her mom's lost wedding ring.

Author:
Gary Soto

Illustrator:
Ed Martinez



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: Why are the children on the cover looking at the tamales with wide eyes?

While reading, make connections: What special foods does your family usually eat on holidays?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why didn't Maria tell her mom right away what happened to the wedding ring? What would you have done?
- ◆ Should her cousins have helped her eat all the tamales?
- ◆ How do you think Maria's mom got her ring back?
- ◆ How do you think Maria's cousins felt that night?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CORN HUSK PAINTING

Materials: dried corn husks, paint, paper

After eating corn on the cob, save the corn husks. Let husks dry overnight. Dip the ends in paint and use the husks like paintbrushes to create a beautiful picture. Notice how the texture of the husks leaves lines in your painting.

OUT AND ABOUT

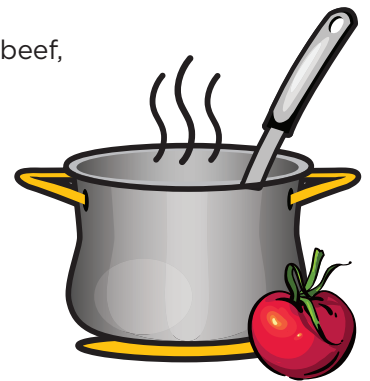
Twenty-four is a lot to eat of anything, especially tamales! At your next meal, help your child count out 24 of something small to eat (noodles, peas, French fries, etc.). Imagine eating that many of something big!



SIMPLE TAMALE PIE

Ingredients: 1 lb. ground beef, 2 tbsp. chopped onion, 1 8oz. can tomato sauce, 1 can Mexican style corn (drained), salt & pepper, 1 box cornbread mix (plus ingredients on box)

Cook beef and onions in a pan until brown. Drain grease. Add tomato sauce, corn and salt and pepper to taste; mix. Pour in casserole dish. Mix cornbread according to directions on box. Pour on top of beef mixture. Bake at 350° until cornbread is done.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

The Old Man and His Door (1998),
The Skirt (2008), *The Cat's Meow* (1997).



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy's
©2011 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is
Fundamental