

# A Mexican Festival



#### by Rita Cruz illustrated by Joanne Friar



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be addressed to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers, Attn: Permissions, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.

Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02699-2 ISBN-10: 0-547-02699-4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0940 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

If you have received these materials as examination copies free of charge, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers retains title to the materials and they may not be resold. Resale of examination copies is strictly prohibited.

Possession of this publication in print format does not entitle users to convert this publication, or any portion of it, into electronic format.



Nora went to a Mexican festival with Alma and her family. It was a big party with lots of people, food, and music. Many people were waving flags.



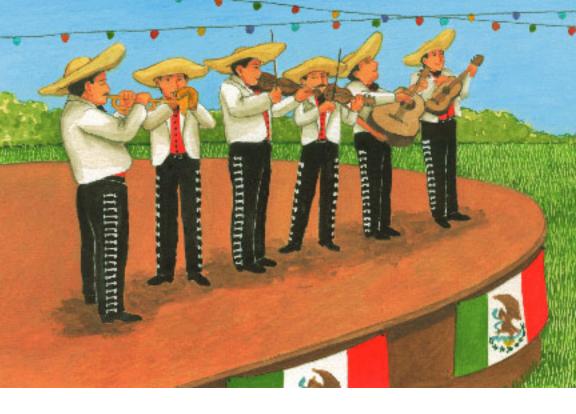
- "The flags are red, green, and white. Those are the colors of Mexico," said Alma.
  - "The flags are pretty!" said Nora.
- "This isn't even the best part," said Alma. "Just wait!"



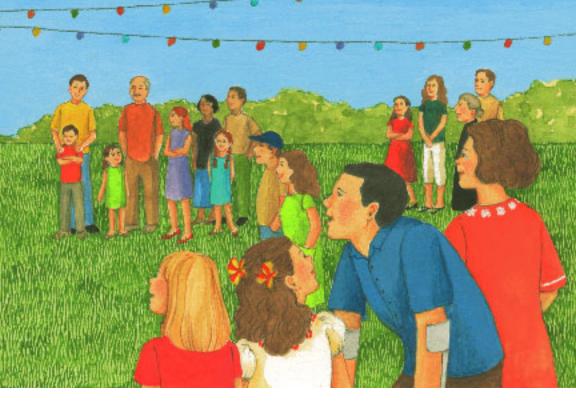
- Alma's mother got plates of food for everyone.
- "I have never tried Mexican food before," said Nora.
- "Put some salsa on your taco," said Alma. "The salsa tastes spicy."



- "Yum!" said Nora. "The food must be the best part of the festival."
- "It's yummy, but it's not the best part," said Alma. "Just wait!"



- "This festival has great music," said Alma's father. "Let's go listen to the band."
  - He led the way to the stage.
- Nora saw men wearing big hats.
- They were playing instruments and singing.



- "It sounds happy. The music must be the best part of the festival!"

  "The music is great but it's
- "The music is great, but it's not the best part of the festival," said Alma. "Just wait!"



- Then a group of dancers came onto the stage. They were wearing colorful clothes and clapping.
- "That looks like fun!" Nora said. "The dancers must be the best part of the festival!"



- "They are great dancers," agreed Alma. "But they're not the best part of the festival."
- "What could be better than the dancers?" asked Nora.
- "Just wait. You'll see!" said Alma.

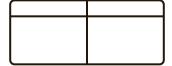


- At the end, everyone cheered for Mexico. Then they all began to dance... even Nora and Alma!
- "This is the best part!" Alma said. "Dancing together!"
- "You're right!" said Nora. "I think this is the best part, too!"

## Responding

## TARGET SKILL Understanding

Characters What does Nora say? What does she do? What do these things tell you about Nora? Make a chart.



### Write About It

Text to Text Think of a different story about a party or festival.

Draw a picture of the party.

Write a caption that tells about the best part of the party.



### LEARN MORE WORDS

festival music

- Characters Tell more about characters.
- Use clues to figure out more about story parts.
- **GENRE Realistic fiction** is a story that could happen in real life.

Level: J

DRA: 18 Genre:

**Realistic Fiction** 

**Strategy:** Infer/Predict

Skill:

**Understanding Characters** 

**Word Count: 267** 

1.1.2

## Online Leveled Books





