

CINCO DE MOUSE-O!

JUDY COX

ILLUSTRATED BY JEFFREY EBBELER

About the Book

Mouse wants to celebrate the Cinco de Mayo festival with just one piece of candy from a magnífica piñata, but Cat has plans of his own!

Yum! Yum! A delicious beany, cheesy smell wakes up Mouse. He follows his nose down the street to a Cinco de Mayo festival. There, high in a tree, he spies a *magnífica* piñata. If only Mouse could get just one piece of candy from it. But danger is everywhere, from the stomping feet of dancers to

Cat, who is planning a holiday *fiesta* of his own with Mouse on the menu.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Language Arts

Verbs—Alert students to look/listen for the many words and phrases the author uses to tell what Mouse *did*. Point out that these are *verbs*, or action words. Have them make a list of all of the verbs they find in the story.

Learning Spanish—Many Spanish words are used in the story and shown in the illustrations: *auténtica, burro, chorizo, fantástico, felicidad, fiesta, flan, gallo, lotería, luna, paraguas, pez, piñata, plaza, serape, sombrero*. Students may use a Spanish/English dictionary to find English definitions for these words, and they can then create an illustrated class glossary. Throughout the year they can add English definitions of other Spanish words they hear/learn to the glossary.

Further Reading—Students may want to also hear/read the story *One Is a Feast for Mouse* by the same author and illustrator, which is the first book to introduce the character of Mouse and is a good read for the Thanksgiving season. They can then compare and contrast the two stories: How are they alike? How are they different?

Science/Math

Recipes—Using recipes with students provides a great opportunity for practicing measurement and realizing that cooking is a scientific activity. See Online Resources below for recipes for the foods mentioned in the story. Students can also create an illustrated menu for the fiesta.

Art

Students can make *papel picata*, Mexican paper flowers, and a piñata for a class Cinco de Mayo celebration. See Online Resources below for links to directions.

Research

Cinco de Mayo Facts—Students can use nonfiction books, encyclopedias, and online resources in their school or public library to find answers to these questions: Why is Cinco de Mayo celebrated in Mexico? Who are the heroes of Cinco de Mayo? How is Cinco de Mayo celebrated in the United States?

Online Resources

www.mexonline.com/cinco-de-mayo.htm

Presents an abridged history of Cinco de Mayo

www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/cinco-de-mayo/tissue-flower.htm

Presents step-by-step directions, with photos, for making Mexican paper flowers like those in the story.

<http://allrecipes.com//Info/Holidays-Events-and-Occasions/Cinco-de-Mayo/Main.aspx>

Presents recipes for the Cinco de Mayo foods served at the fiesta in the story.

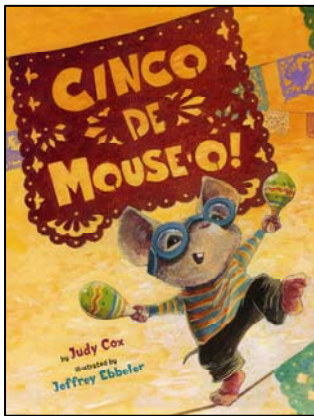
www.ehow.com/how_17058_make-cinco-de.html

Presents step-by-step directions for making a piñata and includes additional links and videos for other related art projects

About the Author/Illustrator

Judy Cox is an elementary school teacher and the author of picture books and fiction for young readers. She received an Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award for children for *One Is a Feast for Mouse*, the first book about Mouse. *School Library Journal* called *Go to Sleep, Groundhog!* "irresistible," while *Booklist* praised it as "charming." She lives with her family in Oregon. Visit Judy online at www.judycox.net.

Jeffrey Ebbeler has worked as an art director, book designer, and illustrator. His art for *One Is a Feast for Mouse* was called "colorful" and "dramatic" by *Booklist*. And *School Library Journal* called his illustrations for *Punxsutawney Phyllis* by Susanna Leonard Hill "exuberant . . . rustic [and] cozy." He plays the trumpet and drums, and Jeff lives with his wife and twin daughters in Cincinnati. Check out his website at www.jeffillustration.com.



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