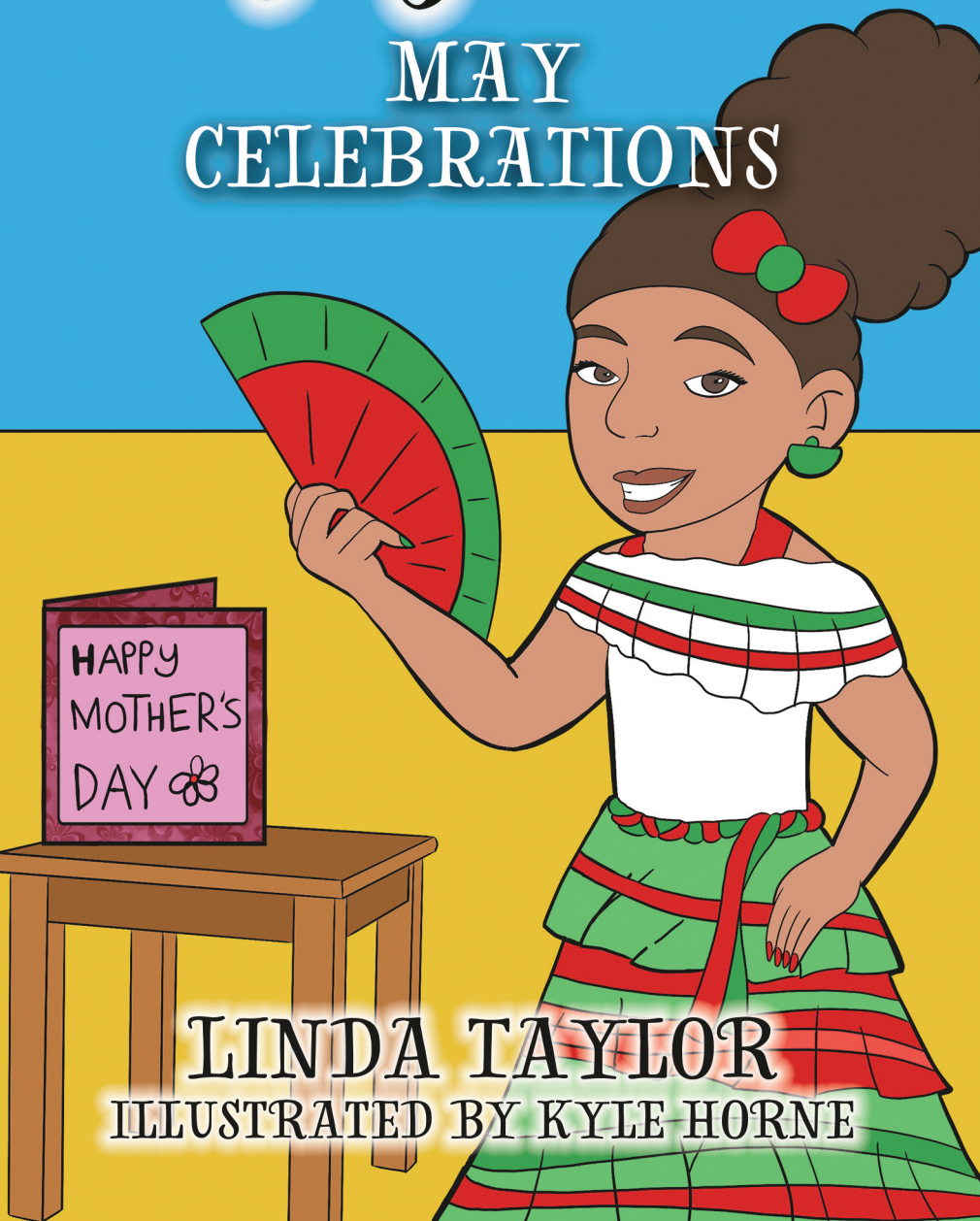


Amazing Annabelle

MAY CELEBRATIONS



LINDA TAYLOR
ILLUSTRATED BY KYLE HORNE

“Amazing Annabelle: May Celebrations is about a brave and exhilarating student named Annabelle. She is excited about all the fun that takes place during the month of May. You can feel the end of the year vibes while reading this book!

“Young readers can easily relate to Annabelle and her journey in school. The positive energy, powerful lessons, and memorable celebrations will have you eagerly waiting to read the next book in the series!”

—*Lauren Kiszenik, Special Ed teacher*

“In this *Amazing Annabelle* multicultural story, great awareness of Mexican culture is highlighted and celebrated to the fullest. Once again we see *Amazing Annabelle* activating “Operation Kindness” as she works with two of her classmates on a project about Mexican culture.

“Annabelle is such an awesome role model for students everywhere. She has such a positive mindset and great determination to see situations work out for good. *Amazing Annabelle* is one of a kind.”

—*Delfina Hennep, Speech Therapist*

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ISBN: 978-1-94782908-4

Printed in The United States of America

*To my countless
students—
Oh, how you've
inspired me!*

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May Celebrations

Cinco de Mayo!

A Mexican Holiday.

Mrs. Mitchell's class is studying about
Mexican culture.

A fiesta is planned for that day.

Preparations are being made
for Mother's Day.

An impromptu lesson on idioms
take place.

They're making cards and decorations
For Mother's Day celebration.

The Memorial Day parade
is a solemn change of pace

As we honor our American soldiers
with grace.

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CINCO DE MAYO

Only two more months were left of the school year, but the great learning times and celebrations kept right on coming. The students and teachers were enjoying the beautiful weather by wearing shorts, capris, sundresses, sandals, short sleeve shirts, and sleeveless shirts. Summer was right around the corner, and many of the students seemed to have an extra burst of energy.

Mrs. Mitchell loved the month of May because of her Social Studies unit on Mexico. During this unit, she would introduce the Mexican celebration of

Cinco de Mayo, which means the fifth of May in Spanish. This day celebrates the unlikely victory Mexico had over the French forces in 1862. This day is also a celebration of Mexican-American culture in the United States.

As Mrs. Mitchell began sharing this unit with her class, she pointed out that they would be learning about Mexican traditions, foods, people, language, culture, folktales, and celebrations. She chose to focus on Cinco de Mayo because it's so colorful and exciting.

Mrs. Mitchell already had planned many fun activities that she would introduce to the class, such as the Mexican hat dance, a cakewalk, and the breaking of the piñata.

At the conclusion of the unit, she was going to have a fiesta with the class. Mrs. Mitchell was going to make guacamole,

tacos, and other Mexican treats. Additionally she would teach her students some Spanish words and phrases, and even some Spanish songs.

Mrs. Mitchell certainly captured their undivided attention as she spoke passionately about these exciting plans. The students were equally excited and had many questions.

“Mrs. Mitchell, what is the Mexican hat dance?” Tyler inquired.

“It’s the national dance of Mexico, and it’s very easy to do,” Mrs. Mitchell assured the class.

She showed them a short video and then asked if anyone wanted to try it. Almost all the hands went up. So she paired each boy up with a girl and instructed them to spread out all around the classroom wherever there was room.

Mrs. Mitchell modeled the steps a few

times with different students. Then she turned on the music and watched everyone dance. For the most part everyone did a great job; but one thing was for sure, everyone had a terrific time.

Annabelle couldn't believe the class was having so much fun first thing in the morning. They were already starting to learn about Mexican culture by learning their national dance.



After they were settled back in their seats again, Mrs. Mitchell divided the class up into seven groups to represent the seven topics that would be covered during this unit. Once the groups were made, each one had the responsibility of putting together a presentation that represented the topic chosen. Each group would have to work together and come up with a plan of action.

Mrs. Mitchell had a jar with numbers from one to seven with every number written three times. Then she had the students pick them out of the jar, and those who chose the same number formed a group, until everyone was in one. Annabelle found herself in a group with Julia and Caleb. For some reason she had never been in a group with them before. This was going to be a new experience with new partners.

Once again the class was going to do

group work, which they hadn't done in a while. But Annabelle was always ready for whatever activity was assigned.

Mrs. Mitchell asked the groups to meet together to see who would be the team captain. Of course Annabelle knew she was highly qualified, but she didn't want to be pushy or overly forceful on the first day. Annabelle even suggested that Julia be captain of the group. Then Julia suggested that Caleb be the captain, so Annabelle agreed.

Mrs. Mitchell held seven strips of paper in her hand, each one having a specific topic of study about Mexico. The group captain had to pick one strip and share it with their group.

After the topics were chosen, each group would have the rest of the morning to brainstorm ideas and do research for their overall project. Caleb's paper had

folktales written on it, and Annabelle thought that it was a great choice. However, Caleb and Julia didn't like the topic at all.

"What kind of project could we possibly put together about a Mexican folktale?" Julia asked, frowning.

"I have no clue right now, but we're going to have to come up with something by the end of the day," Caleb said.

Annabelle boldly spoke up and shared a thought to give the group some direction. "Maybe it would be a good idea to google Mexican folktales and read about them."

"And then what?" Caleb snapped quickly.

Annabelle wasn't liking his tone at all. She wondered why Caleb got so worked up over her suggestion. Not wanting to make the situation any worse, Annabelle tried to give him some more ideas.

“After we read some folktales, we could pick one to write a summary about, draw an illustration of it, or act it out. There are so many different things we could try,” Annabelle said hopefully.

“That sounds like a good idea,” Julia agreed. “Let’s each read a different folktale and then share it to see which one we like the best.”

“Fine. Let’s just do that and get it over with,” Caleb said with an attitude.

Annabelle could see this was going to be a tough group and that she would have to be careful what she said around Caleb. Annabelle never really saw him as a hot-head before, but it seemed like Caleb could get upset very quickly. It was a good thing that Julia was pleasant. Annabelle was hoping she would be a friendly partner. Only time would tell.