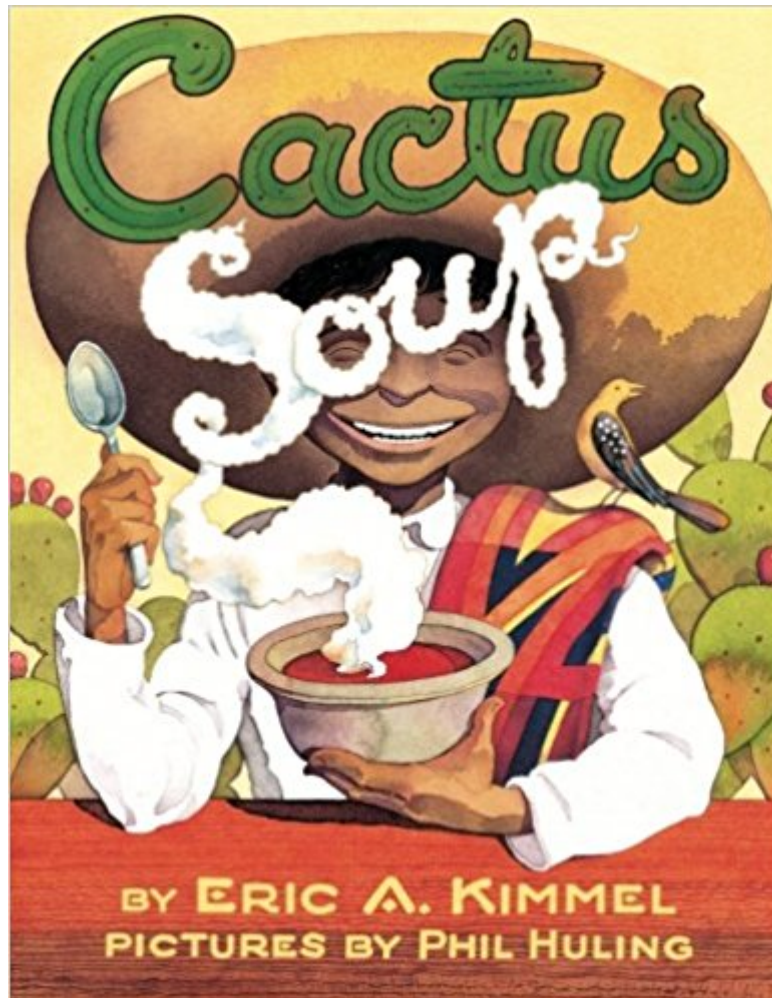




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# Cactus Soup



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## Synopsis

The Spanish edition of our Mexican-flavored Stone Soup story, *Cactus Soup*. When a group of hungry soldiers ride into San Miguel, the townspeople don't want to share their food. They hide their tortillas, tamales, beans, and flour and put on torn clothes to look poor. But the Captain is not fooled. He asks for a cactus thorn to make some cactus soup, and before long he has tricked the townspeople into giving him salt and chilies, vegetables, and a chicken as well! Whimsical watercolors by Phil Huling add to the humor in this southwestern twist on the classic Stone Soup tale.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD580L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Two Lions; Reprint edition (April 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761458328

ISBN-13: 978-0761458326

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 76 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #80,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns](#) #82 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #96 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#)

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1st - 3rd

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4 This Mexican variant of "Stone Soup" calls for a single cactus thorn as its base. The army captain repeatedly teases the poor people of San Miguel with the lament, "Why ask for something you don't have?," seducing the curious folk into adding still more ingredients like chiles, vegetables, and meat to his magical concoction, a yummy comestible that inevitably leads to a fiesta. Huling's elongated watercolor cartoons provide just the right playful, brown-hued visual temperament for the all-round festive deception. The glossary is welcome but, oddly, lacks a pronunciation guide. Even stranger, though, is the postscripted author's note, bizarrely politicizing

an otherwise clever cultural retelling (although it gives the artist an opportunity to tack on interesting portraits of Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata). Teachers can follow up with Marcia Brown's *Stone Soup* (Atheneum, 1947), a wonderful example of the international appeal and ready adaptation of timeless tales of human nature. John Sigwald, Unger Memorial Library, Plainview, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 1-3. Kimmel once recast the gingerbread boy as a traditional Mexican foodstuff in *The Runaway Tortilla* (2000); illustrator Huling's previous picture book, *Puss in Cowboy Boots* (2002), plunked Charles Perrault's wily cat in the Southwest. How appropriate, then, that the two should team up to create a chile-infused recipe for stone soup. Their version is set in the Mexico of the Zapatistas, and it's a regiment of revolutionaries who suggest cactus-spine soup to villagers made stingy by a mayor who warns that soldiers "eat like wolves!" But cactus soup, of course, isn't as tasty without salt, pepper, chiles, onions, beans, and a chicken or two . . . "But why ask for what you don't have?" Soon missing ingredients materialize by the basketful, resulting in a splendid feast for the hungry soldiers and a rousing fiesta for all. Kimmel's relaxed storytelling, accompanied by a glossary for those whose Spanish vocabulary may not encompass *camote* (sweet potato) and *alcalde* (mayor), is perfectly matched by the sun-baked watercolors by Huling, whose lanky villagers dwarfed by looming sombreros, swaybacked horses, and bowlegged vaqueros evoke both the exaggerated perspectives of Mexican muralists and the tongue-in-cheek universe of Speedy Gonzales. A savory stew to serve alongside traditional versions of the classic tale. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I like this book because it brings the old stone soup story to another culture of Mexicans. I am Mexican-American so I can relate to all this Chile's and camotes which are sweet potatoes. The soldiers outsmart the villagers and the villagers become more generous. It's very clever, funny and cute with amusing colored illustration in colors of the desert. The only thing I don't understand is wouldn't some poor, unfortunate person choke on the cactus needle. Additionally, they are sharp. I do recommend this fun and functional story wholeheartedly.

I love the story and the illustrations are Dali-esque!

Such a cute story!! Since buying my daughter has requested to read it about a hundred times!

I like how the people are tricked into taking out their food for the soliders. I learned some Spanish words, too! - Meredith (7 years old)

Love the book. My daughter loves it so much we have read it every night so far. Pictures are so awesome.

This was a fairly interesting graphic format. However it took me all of 5 minutes to read it, look at all the graphics, and reflect on the meanings of the fable. For the cost, it was not a very good deal as well as the fact it would not open on my Kindle Fire HD but had to be viewed on my laptop with a Kindle Reader. Nicely done but left me wanting much more.

My 3rd graders love this book! There are versions of this story in many cultures and it is a fun starting place for social studies discussions, art projects, even math!

really great book for children and adults. storey great and the artistic pictures were absolutely great.

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