

## The Runaway Tortilla

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Randy Cecil

### Summary

In this remake of the traditional Gingerbread Man tale, a tortilla rises up out of Tía Lupe's pan, declares, "I'm too beautiful to eat," and the adventure begins!

### Ideas for Classroom Use

#### Discussion Questions

Encourage the children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- > *What words would you use to describe the runaway tortilla?*
- > *How many characters end up running after the tortilla? How can you tell?*
- > *What do you think of Señor Coyote? Do you think he really knew where a great treasure was buried?*
- > *Does The Runaway Tortilla remind you of another story you've heard? Which one is it and how is it similar and different?*

### Responding to the Text

#### Writing

##### **Rewrite the Ending**

Have the children rewrite the ending of the story. Who else could the tortilla run into? Does the tortilla have to be eaten up?

##### **Create a New Chant**

Encourage the children to create tunes to go with the chant the Runaway Tortilla sings as she's rolling along, and share them with the rest of the class.

#### Dramatic Arts

##### **Reader's Theater**

After an initial reading of the story, the teacher can read the story again as children act out the parts of the characters in the story. There are many characters, so an entire classroom of children could easily be involved.

#### Cooking/Tasting

##### **Make Your Own Tortillas**

Find out how tortillas are made. What ingredients are needed? Make and share tortillas and tortilla recipes.

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### Math

#### **Create a Classroom Counting Book**

Have children record the number of animals and characters the Runaway Tortillas avoids. Begin with Tñ Lupe and Tño José running, 2 horned toad scampering, 3 donkey braying, etc. Children could record this information by drawing it and recording the number of characters on a paper. You might want children to work together to make a classroom counting book, with small groups of children working together to create each page.

### Graphing

Choose one or more of the following ideas to use with your children.

- Graph how many children have tasted tortillas and how many have not
- Encourage children to interview others about the toppings they like on their tortillas, graph those responses
- Create a graph of classroom favorites served at the taueria, El Papagayo Feliz - The Happy Parrot. Children can choose from enchiladas, tacos, burritos, and fajitas.

### Science

#### **Researching Animals of the Southwest**

Encourage children to research one or more of the southwestern animals of the desert portrayed in the story. They can share that information with others by creating an original art project and/or model of their chosen animal.