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The Hummingbird King (Legends Of The World)



Synopsis

A young chief who had been protected by a hummingbird is killed by his jealous uncle and then transformed into a quetzal, symbol of freedom.

Book Information

Series: Legends of the World

Audio Cassette

Publisher: Troll Communications Llc (April 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816762120

ISBN-13: 978-0816762125

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 2.8 x 4.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,468,025 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÂ Books > Children's

Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Latin American

Age Range: 7 and up

Grade Level: 2 and up

Customer Reviews

This is a great book if you teach native american history and culture. Especially if you teach about native american tribes that existed in Mexico and Central America. The book does a great job of portraying Maya life/culture. It tells the story a Mayan prince who receives a visit from a sacred bird when he is born. The sacred bird leaves a feather as a present for this newborn prince. From this day on the prince carries the feather with him for good luck and fortune. The feather protects him of all evil or from being hurt, he is basically invincible. His people love this prince because he protects them. But there is a Mayan warrior who is jealous of the prince. His envy makes him steal this feather from the prince, the prince then dies in a battle. But the Mayan people still believe that this prince protects over them in a mysterious way.

This was purchased for a nephew whose father is from Guatemala. The illustrations are stunning. There is a death in the story, so it must be told carefully to young readers and should perhaps be saved for a time when the child is old enough to understand what a legend is, so it is not taken literally as very young children do.

This legend is a great way to start talking to students about the Mayan people of long ago. The illustrations are bright and interesting. The pictures could start a discussion! The message about a jealous uncle and a king's passing could be compared to the Lion King if you are comparing legends.

I bought this book for my Guatemalan born son and can't wait until he's old enough to read it to him. The illustrations are quite beautiful. It troubles me a bit that the story is violent with the evil uncle plotting against his nephew - but at the same time it's the same plot as the Lion King, only with a different ending. Nevertheless I would say this is a story for five-year olds and above.

It's a pretty alright book that explains how the quetzal bird came into existence, and is pretty easy to read.

An OK story, but not one I would particularly recommend.

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