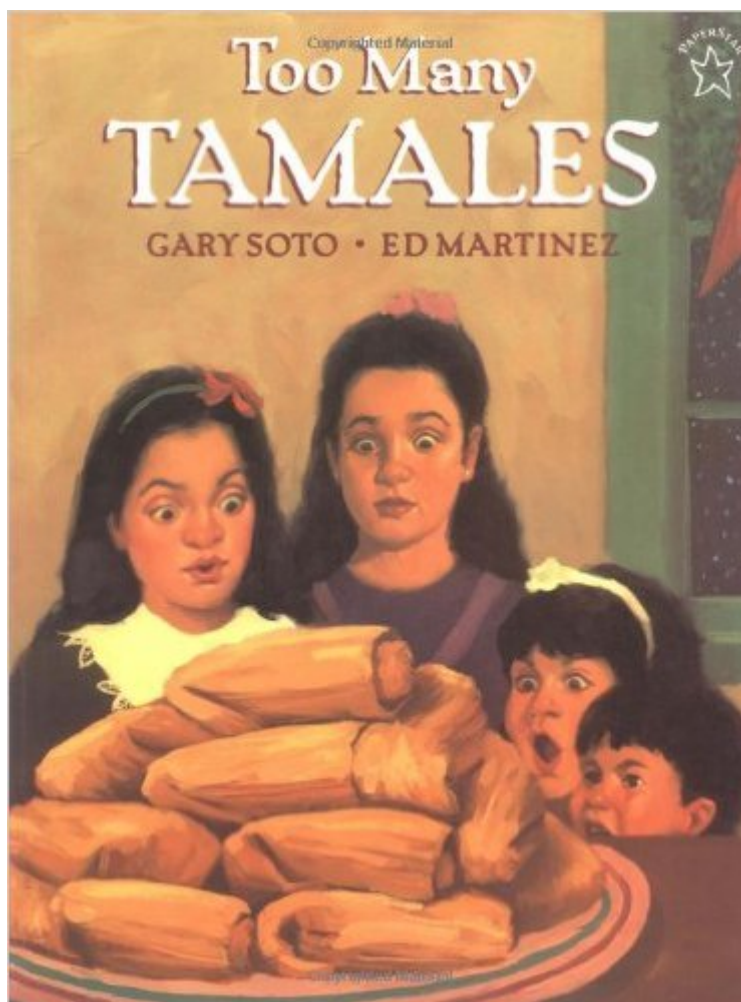


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# Too Many Tamales



## Synopsis

Christmas Eve started out so perfectly for Maria. Snow had fallen and the streets glittered. Maria's favorite cousins were coming over and she got to help make the tamales for Christmas dinner. It was almost too good to be true when her mother left the kitchen for a moment and Maria got to try on her beautiful diamond ring . . . This is the story of a treasure thought to be lost in a batch of tamales; of a desperate and funny attempt by Maria and her cousins to eat their way out of trouble; and the warm way a family pulls together to make it a perfect Christmas after all.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0670 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (August 8, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698114124

ISBN-13: 978-0698114128

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #25,599 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #100 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#) #356 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I got this book because of its truly exceptional illustrations. The colors are rich and evocative. But I was surprised to see the profound effect that this book had on my four-year-old daughter. She empathized so deeply with the shame and the desperation of the main character that for an entire week after reading this story she was coming to me to make confessions of all the times she was tempted to do things that were wrong. It was a combination of the story and the intense emotions that are depicted in the paintings that came together to shake her to the core. For that reason, think this is a great book for all children, not just Latinos and not just for Christmastime.

The warm interiors suffusing this beautifully illustrated Christmas time story convey the entire emotional tone of the book. Although we're waiting for an accident to happen-we can just tell that young Maria is somehow going to lose her mother's ring while helping her make tamales-we also are pretty certain things are going to work out alright. While this may take away a bit of suspense, this is a comforting book that promises a happy conclusion (delivered here by a surprise). The text is simple and flows well; Soto is an experienced writer. He incorporates traditional activities like food, the visiting of extended family, and gift exchanges. I was a bit puzzled that no religious elements were included, not even as an incidental (e.g., the family is returning from church, a religious decorative element). However, I was not familiar with illustrator Ed Martinez, and it is his warm, emotional pictures that make this a "holiday book." He has a varied painting style, one drawing of Maria in light with a high contrast background recalls Renaissance paintings; other pictures use a Rockwellian focus on emotional faces and tableau-like scenarios. Production values are good, although Putnam might have published a larger book with thick, glossy paper, and a heavier cover.

I love to read this book to my first graders each December. It is a great book to accompany my Christmas Around the World unit, particularly when studying Mexico. The pictures are warm and inviting. The story provides a strong sense of family and cooperation. It centers around a young girl named Maria, who tries on her mother's ring. Then while making tamales, the ring disappears. Later on, Maria realizes the ring is not on her finger and she believes that it is inside one of the 24 tamales!

Absolutely wonderful Read Aloud book for a First Grade classroom. Adds wonderful vocabulary for our students. Very good Read Aloud to describe characters - using evidence from the story to identify character traits throughout the text. Excellent product - I was very satisfied with the seller of this book.

This one is surprising because it really did nothing for me. My mother gave it to my son, along with a lot of other Christmas books. However, he has gravitated to this one. The description says that it is for 4 to 6 year olds, but my son is only 2 1/2. We've read it about ten times, but he has it memorized. We can randomly ask him to state the next word and he always gets it. Every night he asks for the tamale book.

This is a cute story that both teaches culture and an life lessons. I use this in High School and they

love it! It is great for doing predictions of outcomes and Q&A. The culture embedded in the story is great, too, it gives them some insight into holidays through a story that is funny and engaging.

So Maria and her mother are making tamales for Christmas dinner and while she is helping her mother mix the masa together her mother leaves her ring on the counter. Maria really loves this ring so when she tries it on and loses it and doesn't realize it oh no. What can Maria do. While visiting with her cousins she remembers the ring and it is up to her and her cousins to find this ring. What will happen with the tamales as it has to be in there right? This is a good story about telling the truth and remembering to not take things that do not belong to you unless you ask. This is a holiday book but I think it is a good book to read whenever. I hope that when I read it to K he understood how Maria felt when she thought she lost something that was important to someone else and how you should tell the truth, even if it means you could be in trouble. The illustrations are perfect and go great with the story being told.

I like this book because I work with students from other cultures on social skills development. I would not use this book for anything other than entertainment. It does not make that last step connection which is the step kids need in order to learn from the story. Otherwise it's just a fun story about a lie. What I mean is, the book does not teach WHY the girl should have been honest in the first place, or what lessons she could have learned from what happened. Or how she would act differently if something like this happened again. Sure you can add this dialogue on your own but it's more interesting when it happens within the story. I feel like for this reason kids don't gain anything from it as far as social or decision-making skill development

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