Papa Gave Me A Stick

by Janice Levy
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Synopsis
When Antonio first hears the members of the mariachi band play, he wants nothing more than a guitar of his own. But guitars cost money, explains his father, who hands Antonio a stick instead. Confused, Antonio accepts his father's gift, unknowingly starting a chain of exchanges that may earn him what he wants most. With a sprinkling of Spanish vocabulary, Papa Gave Me a Stick is a vibrant story about resourcefulness, making dreams come true, and rewards of kindness. "In a contemporary twist on the Japanese fable of the "straw millionaire," a boy named Antonio turns a simple stick into the mariachi guitar of his dreams, while assisting several needy animals along the way." Publishers Weekly

Book Information
Lexile Measure: AD420L (What's this?)
Paperback: 40 pages
Publisher: Star Bright Books (April 30, 2015)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1595723439
Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10 inches
Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,747,036 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #235 in Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico #3567 in Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts
Age Range: 4 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews
When I saw this one on *Netgalley I fell in love with the cover and thought that the book summary sounded interesting. I live in a neighborhood where it is not uncommon to see a mariachi band walk by so I thought this would be a nice book for my son. The book tells the story of a little boy who wants a guitar so badly after he sees a mariachi band playing. He lets his father know how much he wants one but his father instead hands him a stick. The boy is unhappy and wonders what good is a stick. Soon he finds a dog and trades the stick. He keeps trading and trading each time he asks what good is the item he gets. Ok so I kind of chuckled when the father gave him a stick and quite
honestly I could hear Charlie Brown saying, "I got a rock". I liked that the lesson of this is that sometimes you have to work to get what you want. He had to keep trading and trading to get his guitar. What I didn’t like was that each time he complained about what he got. I understand that he really wanted the guitar but he came off as a bit ungrateful. As many know I’m a huge fan of artwork in picture books. This book was filled with wonderful drawings. This was one that I went back to look through all the artwork a second time. My son liked this one. He picked up right away that there were Spanish words in it. Though to be fair to him there are only two languages English (or American as he calls it) and Spanish. He doesn’t know any Spanish. He was excited to learn the word for cat in Spanish though he kept forgetting two seconds later and would ask me yet again to tell him it. I thought this was a great opportunity to teach him a few Spanish words. In the end I have to give this 4 out of 5.

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