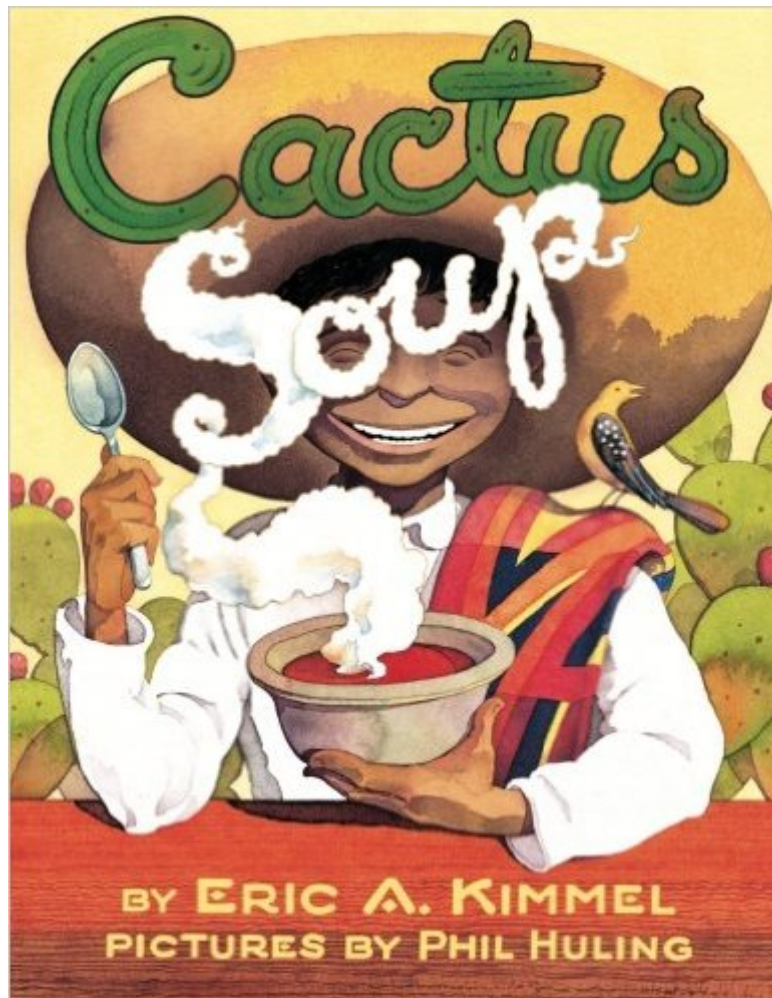


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# Cactus Soup



## 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 Capitán 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: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (74 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #75,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns](#) #90 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #95 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1st - 3rd

## Customer Reviews

Cactus Soup is a Mexican twist on an old tale known by many as Stone Soup. As the story begins, a troop of soldiers come riding toward the town of San Miguel. But the people of town weren't at all happy to learn of their arrival. They then plot to hide their food and tell the soldiers they've nothing to give them in hopes that this would encourage the soldiers not to stay. It's quite interesting to learn how and where all the food is hidden out of sight from the strangers. And to take things even further, the townspeople tore & ripped their clothes as well as smeared mud all over their faces to appear like poor hungry people. Ah, but the Capitán in this story is not at all tricked!

He then asks for a cactus thorn to make cactus soup. The townspeople are a bit more than willing to add to the soup by the charm of the stranger. Things gathered from those hiding places included chiles, salt, onions, garlic, beans, carrots, tomatoes, & stewing hens. His wit and the curiousness of the townspeople resulted in a fiesta that was enjoyed by everyone. Oh yes, more than just the Cactus Soup was enjoyed by everyone but tamales, sweet potatoes, and roasting pigs as well! My children age 2 1/2 and 5 years old have heard other renditions of this story but equally loved this one too. I really loved the Mexican version because it's given me an opportunity to teach my children about other cultures. My daughter was quite curious about the attire as well as the food that was included into the cactus soup. The watercolored and ink illustrations fit the story perfectly and capture the time and the place in Mexico during the Mexican Revolution quite well. Though not mentioned in the story, readers can learn a little bit of history in the Author's note in the back of the book.

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