



# A Mexican Festival

by Rita Cruz  
illustrated by Joanne Friar



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



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**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT**  
School Publishers

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🔊 Nora went to a Mexican festival with Alma and her family. It was a big party with lots of people, food, and music. Many people were waving flags.





🔊 “The flags are red, green, and white. Those are the colors of Mexico,” said Alma.

🔊 “The flags are pretty!” said Nora.

🔊 “This isn’t even the best part,” said Alma. “Just wait!”



Alma's mother got plates of food for everyone.

"I have never tried Mexican food before," said Nora.

"Put some salsa on your taco," said Alma. "The salsa tastes spicy."



🔊 “Yum!” said Nora. “The food must be the best part of the festival.”

🔊 “It’s yummy, but it’s not the best part,” said Alma. “Just wait!”





🔊 “This festival has great music,”  
said Alma’s father. “Let’s go listen  
to the band.”

🔊 He led the way to the stage.

🔊 Nora saw men wearing big hats.

🔊 They were playing instruments  
and singing.



🔊 “I like this music,” Nora said.  
“It sounds happy. The music must  
be the best part of the festival!”

🔊 “The music is great, but it’s  
not the best part of the festival,”  
said Alma. “Just wait!”





🔊 Then a group of dancers came onto the stage. They were wearing colorful clothes and clapping.

🔊 “That **looks** like fun!” Nora said. “The dancers must be the best part of the festival!”



🔊 “They are great dancers,”  
agreed Alma. “But they’re not the  
best part of the festival.”

🔊 “**What** could be better than the  
dancers?” asked Nora.

🔊 “Just wait. You’ll see!”  
said Alma.



🔊 At the end, everyone cheered for Mexico. Then they all began to dance... even Nora and Alma!

🔊 “This is the best part!” Alma said. “Dancing together!”

🔊 “You’re right!” said Nora. “I think this is the best part, **too!**”



# Responding

## **TARGET SKILL** Understanding

**Characters** What does Nora say? What does she do? What do these things tell you about Nora? Make a chart.


## **Write About It**

**Text to Text** Think of a different story about a party or festival. Draw a picture of the party. Write a caption that tells about the best part of the party.



## WORDS TO KNOW

for

he

too

have

look

what

## LEARN MORE WORDS

festival

music



## TARGET SKILL

### Understanding

**Characters** Tell more about characters.



## TARGET STRATEGY

### Infer/Predict

Use clues to figure out more about story parts.



## GENRE

Realistic fiction is a story that could happen in real life.

**Level:** J

**DRA:** 18

**Genre:**

Realistic Fiction

**Strategy:**

Infer/Predict

**Skill:**

Understanding Characters

**Word Count:** 267

1.1.2

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