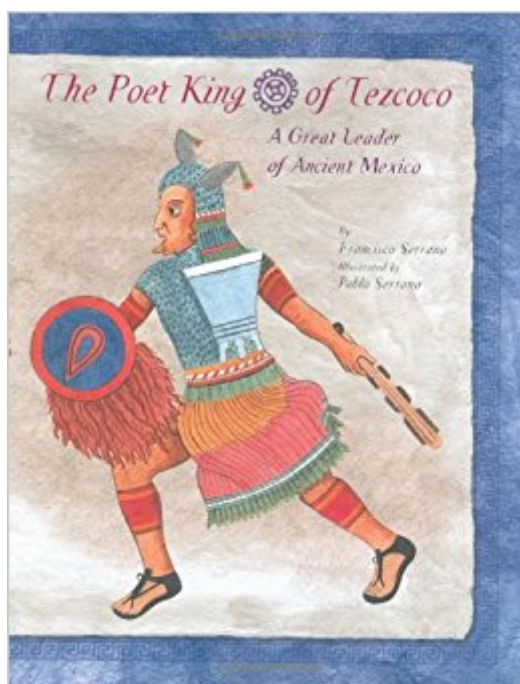


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The Poet King Of Tezcoco: A Great Leader Of Ancient Mexico



Synopsis

One of ancient Mexico's most remarkable rulers, Nezahualcōyōtl was a brilliant poet, architect, and engineer. After reclaiming the throne stolen by his murderous uncle, the Poet King became a great ruler who built palaces, libraries, aqueducts, and gardens. Though he endured many tragedies, his poetry brought him comfort and secured his reputation as a literary master. Nezahualcōyōtl's amazing life and achievements are related here in a unique combination of biography and poetry. Though written at a child's level, this beautifully crafted and lushly illustrated story thrills and informs readers of all ages.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1140 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (April 26, 2007)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,475,394 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Children's

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

In the fifteenth century, the land where Mexico City now sprawls was a vast, green kingdom called Tezcoco. This picture-book biography for older readers introduces one of Tezcoco's greatest rulers, a Toltec royal named Nezahualcoyōtl, who fought rivals, reclaimed his family's throne, and brought dramatic advancements to his kingdom. Nezahualcoyōtl was also a poet whose works have survived, and the packed spreads combine prose accounts of the ruler's life with excerpts from his verse. The dense narrative doesn't shy away from the violent facts about human sacrifice or how Nezahualcoyōtl arranged for a rival's death in order to win his bride. The folk-art inspired illustrations echo the area's artistic traditions with beautiful patterning and symbolic imagery and flat, simplified

characters reminiscent of hieroglyphics. Groundbreaking in its coverage of exciting history, this book offers details that are rarely presented to young people. Appended chronology, glossary, list of suggested readings, an author's note citing sources, and a map of the area offer further support to young researchers. Engberg, Gillian

Like most people, my knowledge of the Aztecs is shaped by their eventual conquest by the Spaniards. Their entire culture exists to be a foil to their European conquerors. So it was with pleasure that I read this children's biography of Nezahualcoyotl, the great poet king of Tezcoco. He lived in the years immediately preceding the conquest and was famed as a soldier, builder and poet of the highest order. This biography allows the young reader to enter the pre-columbian world in its own context. This is a fresh point of view and I thought the book was very well done.

Recommended.

A very interesting book about a fascinating leader. More than I can say about current leaders.

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