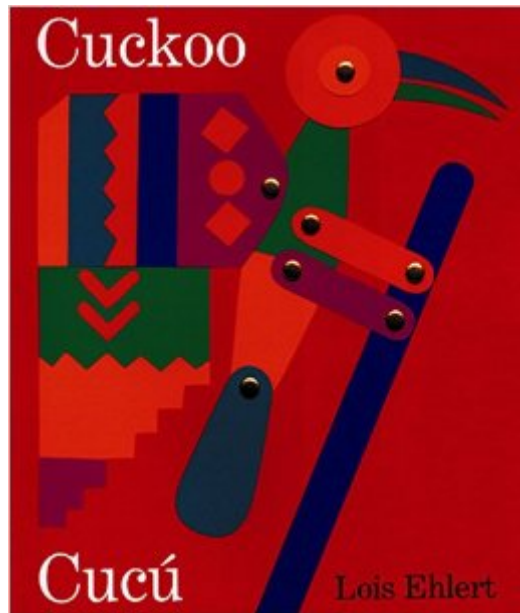


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# Cuckoo/Cucú: A Mexican Folktale/Un Cuento Folklórico Mexicano



## Synopsis

Cuckoo is beautiful. Trouble is, she's lazy. She never does her share of work-that is, until a field fire threatens the season's seed crop and Cuckoo is the only one who can save it. But will she risk harming her lovely feathers by flying through the thick smoke and flames?

## Book Information

Age Range: 3 and up

Lexile Measure: 290 (What's this?)

Paperback: 36 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (August 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 015202428X

ISBN-13: 978-0152024284

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #91,856 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism](#) #99 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #116 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

## Customer Reviews

Cuckoo is a beautiful, but lazy bird. The owl, doves, and even the rooster get tired of Cuckoo flying around and singing beautiful songs all day. They complain she never does her share of the work! That is, until one day Cuckoo notices a field fire about to ruin the season's crop they had just worked so hard to plant. Cuckoo's apparent bravery is shown when she saves the seeds by carrying them to the mole's hole. This also demonstrates her willingness to put others' needs before her own beauty. Children of all ages will love the moral of this endearing story: "You can't tell much about a bird by looking at its feathers." This beautifully, brightly, authentically illustrated story is adapted from a Mayan Indian tale from Mexico. The bilingual text adds appeal to children of other cultures, or children wanting to learn the Spanish language. The front cover includes authentic drawings of ornaments with the Spanish/English vocabulary that is presented throughout the book. With the combination of bright illustrations that shine like the sun, a good moral ending showing bravery of the main character, and the bilingual text, young readers aren't likely to forget Cuckoo.

Lois Ehlert is one of my favorite authors. Her books are so visually stimulating. I love the way she uses colors, textures and words to make the story take on a life of its own. Very creative and .....bilingual, too!

Lois Ehlert has once again done a great job with this bilingual retelling of a Mayan Indian tale from Mexico with her very bold and colorful illustrations inspired by Mexican crafts. The moral is presented in an interesting way, in which cuckoo, who is usually an annoying pest, in a crisis becomes a hero and saves the day. "You can't tell much about a bird by looking at its feathers." This publication is excellent in quality - paper and printing.

Cuckoo is a very beautiful bird with a gorgeous voice. The problem is she is extremely vain. Cuckoo does not help the other birds gather seeds for food. One day there is a fire, and Cuckoo is the only one awake. Cuckoo salvages all of the villages seeds by storing them in a mole hole. The soot from the fire has caused her feathers to turn black. When everyone recognizes Cuckoo and what she has done they are all very proud of her and forgiving for her selfish past. Note to teachers: This book has beautiful, colorful illustrations. You should definitely follow any activity you do with this text with an art project on mosaics with extraordinary colors. This book could be used to prove a very good moral lesson. Beauty is only skin deep, and no one person is better than the rest of the group. Everyone must pitch in their part. You could also use this to introduce a unit on Africa, because this is an African folk tale.

I love this book because it is such a sweet story, and beautiful illustrations. It is also a great teaching tool for my son, and I love that it has the English and Spanish side by side.

My toddler group just love this book. Have used the pictures for patterns for puppets and other craft uses. I would recommend this book. Also good for beginner Spanish lessons.

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