

**Title:** *A Mummy in Her Backpack / Una momia en su mochila*

**Author:** James Luna **Translator:** Gabriela Baeza Ventura

**Publication Date:** October 31, 2012 **Pages:** 64 **Price:** \$9.95 **Imprint:** Piñata Books

**Trim:** 5.5" x 8.5" **Format:** Trade Paperback **Ages:** 8-12

**ISBN-10:** 1-55885-756-7 **ISBN-13:** 978-1-55885-756-8

Flor enjoyed her two-week trip to Mexico, though she's glad to be back at school. But when she tries to pull her homework out of her backpack, she's shocked to feel a cold hand clutching hers. Thinking that the pesky boys in her class are playing a trick on her, she turns around to look into her pack. She's even more stunned when she sees two yellow eyes peeking out at her.

Flor and her best friend Lupita stare in astonishment as a cowboy hat, followed by a small man with dark yellow skin and thin, stringy hair, emerges from her backpack. He introduces himself as Rafa, a mummy from the famous museum in Guanajuato. Flor visited the museum and learned that some people buried there mummified naturally. She can't believe that an actual mummy hitched a ride with her to the United States!

Amusing hijinks ensue as the girls try to hide Rafa from their teacher, classmates and family. And when Rafa realizes that it's almost the Day of the Dead, or El Día de los Muertos, he longs to return home. The girls are forced to reveal their secret and seek help from an adult. How can they get Rafa home in time for the annual celebration honoring deceased loved ones? Published in a bilingual "flip" format, young readers ages 8 to 12 will savor this entertaining story about mummies, friendship and responsibility.

**GENRE:** Multicultural and bilingual books for intermediate readers

**SELLING HANDLES:**

- This entertaining tale for intermediate readers is presented in a bilingual "flip" book format, that is, English on one side, turn it over and the Spanish version is on the other.
- References the Museo de las Momias, or the Mummy Museum, in Guanajuato, Mexico.
- Exposes kids to an important Mexican tradition, the Day of the Dead.

**AUTHOR CREDENTIALS:**

JAMES LUNA, an elementary school teacher, is the author of a bilingual picture book for children, *The Runaway Piggy / El cochinito fugitivo*, which won the Tejas Star Book Award. He lives and works in Riverside, California.

## **PRAISE FOR THE BOOK:**

- Named to the Texas Library Association's 2013-2014 Tejas Star Reading List

"In this bilingual book, a young girl finds a surprise upon returning from a trip to Guanajuato, Mexico...Luna moves the story at a nice clip...The Spanish translation follows the original English version. An innocuous Halloween and Day of the Dead book for readers who prefer to skip scarier fare."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Even the dead seek a little adventure. [This is] a choice pick for any youth seeking a novella in two languages, much recommended."—*The Midwest Book Review*