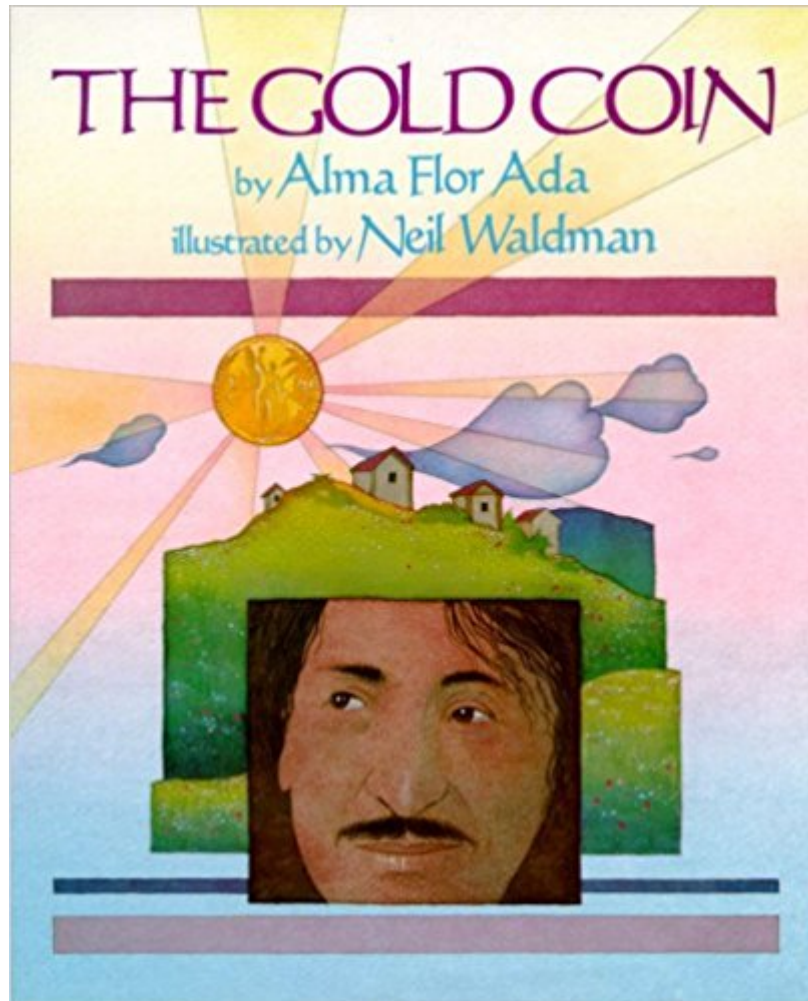




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The Gold Coin



Synopsis

Juan has been a thief for many, many years. So many, in fact, that he can't even remember what it's like to be anything else. When he tries to steal Doña Josefa's gold, something strange begins to happen to Juan. His skin becomes tan instead of pale, his body straight instead of bent, and his mouth smiles instead of scowls. Juan also begins to remember things. He remembers eating good, home-cooked food, being among friends, and laughing. When the opportunity arrives for him to take Doña Josefa's gold, another strange thing happens. Juan realizes he can't. Maybe he isn't a thief anymore. Set against a Central American background, this is a story of love and faith in the human spirit.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689717938

ISBN-13: 978-0689717932

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #496,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #419 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #4871 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

An elderly woman, Dona Josefa, sits in her hut, holding a gold coin. "I must be the richest woman in the world," she says to herself. But unbeknownst to her, a thief, Juan, crouches at her window, watching and listening. When Dona Josefa leaves, Juan ransacks the hut but fails to find her treasure. Tracking the woman across the countryside, he misses her again and again--coming instead upon many people who have been helped by her. And when the thief finally does catch up with her, he is surprised to find that he, too, has been touched by her simple goodness. Set in South

America, this beautifully designed book features an unusual, rewarding fable and Waldman's (Nessa's Fish) lovely, stylized watercolors. It's a rich collaboration, worthy of repeated readings. Ages 5-8. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kindergarten-Grade 3-- Juan has been a thief for many years. He is pale and bent from creeping about at night, and that's what he's doing the night he peeks into Dona Josefa's hut. She is holding a gold coin and says that she must be the richest woman in the world. Then and there, Juan determines to steal that coin, and any others she may have. It is a decision that changes Juan's life forever. This gentle story of redemption, ably translated by Randall, is structurally at once cumulative and circular, and is ideally suited for memorization and telling. It will work well as a read-aloud, too. Waldman's clean, pale watercolors have an art nouveau feel, and are large enough to be seen at story times. Whether told, read to a group, or shared one-on-one, the tale of Juan's search for an old woman's treasure makes an important point in a concise and satisfying manner. --Ann Welton, Univ . Child Development School, SeattleCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Gold Coin is listed as multicultural and it is but you could drop the plot into any culture. It's a story about a woman with a gold coin telling herself how wealthy she is. A burglar is watching determined to take all her gold. He follows her from one place to another learning a lesson at each stop and by the time the scene comes full circle back to her house he has reformed. In the end he wants none of her possessions but does want to be a help to her. This is a must have for people with intermediate age children and teachers.

I first read this book about 15 years ago and loved it! I love that the main character changes so much from the beginning of the book to the end. The illustrations show the change his hearts undergoes in a physical way. It just a beautiful story about how hard work and kindness can change a person.

One of the best books ever written about learning to be an honest person. Grades 2-5.

Beautiful, new and just what I wanted. I thought they were hardcover, but I am very satisfied with the softcover!

The Gold Coin is an excellent book to show how characters change over time. LOVE IT!

This book offers a wonderful lesson about what is important in life-friendship and giving. It's a great story for children and adults alike.

I received this book on time and it was in excellent condition. The only reason for a 4 star rating vs a 5 star is that it had information from a library within it and caused me to wonder if the book was borrowed indefinitely from said library.

Alma Flor Ada is an author who writes both in Spanish and English. Her work focuses on action over description. Her communication of the values and qualities of the culture in which she immerses her readers makes her books notable. The Gold Coin tells of a man who is twisted in body and spirit until he is transformed by honest hard work, and caring decent people. The reader is introduced to an inspirational character, Dona Josefa. Although the thief doesn't meet her until the end of the story, it is her model of goodness that shines throughout the story. The illustrations admirably reflect the changes the thief undergoes as his body becomes straighter and his face less pale and angry. There are many surprises seeded throughout the story and the ending is wonderfully satisfying. Although this is an original tale, the writing has the flavor of a folktale and the culture and landscape of Central America are authentically portrayed.

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