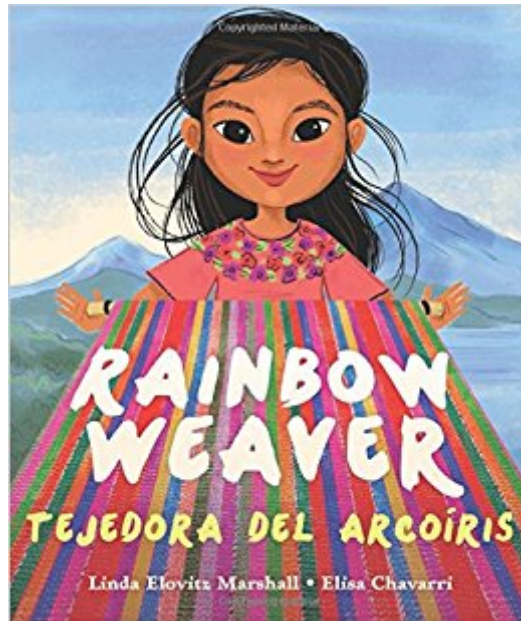




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Rainbow Weaver/Tejedora Del Arcoiris



Synopsis

Ixchel wants to follow in the long tradition of weaving on backstrap looms, just as her mother, grandmother, and most Mayan women have done for more than two thousand years. But Ixchel's mother is too busy preparing her weavings for market. If they bring a good price, they will have money to pay for Ixchel's school and books. And besides, there is not enough extra thread for Ixchel to practice with. Disappointed, Ixchel first tries weaving with blades of grass, and then with bits of wool, but no one would want to buy the results. As she walks around her village, Ixchel finds it littered with colorful plastic bags. There is nowhere to put all the bags, so they just keep accumulating. Suddenly, Ixchel has an idea! She collects and washes the plastic bags. Then she cuts each bag into thin strips. Sitting at her loom, Ixchel weaves the plastic strips into a colorful fabric that looks like a beautiful rainbow just like the weavings of Mayan women before her."

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Hardcover

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892393742

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #133,685 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Recycling & Green Living](#) #43 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #295 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Spanish](#)
Age Range: 6 - 9 years
Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3 [Fans of Omar S. Castañeda's Abuela's Weave](#) will enjoy this lovely selection about perseverance, community, and the ancient Mayan art of weaving. In order to earn money at the market, the women in young Ixchel's Guatemalan village "weave thread into fabric as beautiful as a rainbow." The girl desperately wants to learn and participate in this traditional art, but her

mother gently refuses. Mama tells her that the money she earns from the cloth will be used to purchase books and fund an education for Ixchel. The cloth must be eye-catching in order to earn a good price. Ixchel is disappointed but determined to help and soon comes up with a creative way to clean up her village and weave a unique type of cloth. Vibrant illustrations bring the story to life and provide readers with a glimpse of indigenous Guatemalan culture. The images could also be used during a discussion about facial expressions and how they communicate emotions. The English and Spanish texts are clearly delineated. The author incorporates several words in Kaqchikel, one of the Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala. A glossary and pronunciation guide are provided at the beginning of the volume. A detailed author's note at the narrative's conclusion explains the inspiration for this tale. Pair this with a simple weaving project and some primary source photographs. VERDICT An uplifting offering that would be a wonderful addition to picture book collections and STEAM programs. —Katie Darrin, Boulder Valley School District, CO

LINDA ELOVITZ MARSHALL grew up near Boston, graduated from Barnard College, and raised four children and a flock of sheep on a farm in the Hudson Valley of New York. She is the author of several books for young readers and was inspired to write this story by dear friends and founders of Mayan Hands, an organization of weavers in Guatemala. Marshall lives with her family in Selkirk, New York. ELISA CHAVARRI is a full-time illustrator who graduated with honors from the Savannah College of Art and Design, where she majored in Classical Animation and minored in Comics. Born in Peru, she now lives with her husband and their daughter, cat, and dog in northern Michigan.

Lovely story with beautiful and colorful illustrations!

Sweet story, beautiful illustrations, students loved it!

Wonderful book for both English and Spanish readers. Use it in my classroom.

Good story that I read to my students when we do weaving projects in art class.

This book features so many of my favorite things: weaving, culture, traditions, recycling, language and socio-economic development. So often kids are told to wait until they're older to participate in activities. But this determined girl isn't brushed off so easily. A creative thinker, she tries various methods that don't work,

doesn't give up, and finally discovers her own way to weave a rainbow and help the environment, too. Often, children in the U. S. take their education for granted and don't realize that in many countries families must pay for school, and, with meager funds, that may not be the top priority. Though the text is presented in English and Spanish, the characters use words from a Mayan language called Kaqchikel. A glossary and pronunciation guide is provided. The illustrations are colorful and endearing. The story was inspired by the author's friends who started a weaving cooperative, Mayan Hands, in Guatemala. A portion of the proceeds from the book benefit two Mayan weaving cooperatives, their children's education, and health care.

This bilingual picture book tells the story of Ixchel, who lives in the mountains above Lake Atitlán in Guatemala. She comes from a long line of Mayan weavers, and wants to weave with her mother to help pay for her schooling. Ixchel is too young to weave, and her mother can't afford thread for her attempts, so she decides to create her own loom and thread from various materials. Her early results are disappointing but she persists and, through recycling colorful plastic bags littering her village, winds up with an item of beauty. Scans and photos of actual Mayan weavings are used in Chavarri's drawings. These works, incorporated into her full-page colorful drawings, beautifully illustrate Ixchel's story and show how Mayan designs resemble rainbows. Though Ixchel is fiction, a group of weavers in Guatemala create purses, baskets and more from plastic bags and threads, which they sell through cooperatives in the United States and other countries. In the 1980's an organization called "Mayan Hands" was formed to help these weavers sell their products. Proceeds from the sale of "Rainbow weaver" will not only help weavers, but also help pay for medical care and for their children to go to school. Recommended for ages 5-10.

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