

**Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story**  
**By Tomie dePaola**

**Summary:** Yet another version of the Cinderella story from the land of old Mexico. This one involves a shawl rather than a glass slipper.

**Vocabulary:**

merchant	charming	meager	furious
heartbroken	orphan	whim	assure
gradually	amid	crucifix	refreshment
declare	astonishment		

**Before Reading Activities:**

1. Discuss features / elements of other Cinderella tales the students may have read or heard.
2. Locate Mexico on a map. Identify the continent and the bordering countries, as well as their direction from the nation of Mexico based on a compass rose.
3. Allow students to self-introduce the story terms by distributing the vocabulary crossword for them to work on, as well as the student glossaries. Correct as a group.
4. Assign independent or buddy reading of the story, encouraging the class to use the Spanish term glossary at the back of the book to become familiar and comfortable with the oral reading/pronunciation of those phrases from the story.

**After Reading Activities:**

1. Compare / contrast the elements and events of Adelita to the more traditional Cinderella tale using a Venn diagram. Have students record the diagram and group notes into their journals as you develop the group chart on the board / chart paper.
2. Use the chart developed as a springboard for assigning comparative essays to the students.
3. Assign individual book-jackets. Students will need to practice on scratch paper before their final copy is developed on the more expensive drawing paper. These will be mounted on larger pieces of black paper with the comparative essays attached below. Display finished projects in the classroom.
4. Allow for numerous opportunities for practice reading the story throughout the week and use unit support resources as appropriate.

**Extension and Integration Ideas:**

1. Do an in-depth Cinderella comparative study using different versions of the story from around the world.
2. Explore other tales from the land of Mexico.
3. Consider having a contest where students decorate their own shawl in various ways.