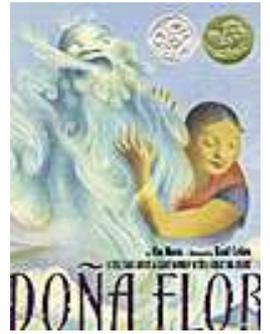


Audience-Participation Poem to introduce older students to:

Doña Flor: A Tall-tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart

Before reading the poem or having a student, students or audience members read it, practice having them say “more” when you gesture with your hand and having them say “roar” when you show them your claws (hands curved like cat paws). Invite students or the audience also to chime in for underlined words. Pronunciation guide at the end of the poem.



There once was a girl named Flor,
who kept growing more—and more.

She grew and grew, young blooming Flor,
Five feet, six feet—more and more.

Taller than a house was Flor—and more.
Taller than a tree was Flor—and more.
Taller than a school was Flor—and more.
Taller than a *montaña* was Flor—and more.

Neighbors called her Doña Flor.
Doña Flor, Doña Flor, woman blooming ever-more.

She grew giant flowers—and more,
made humungous tortillas did Flor.

“May we have your flowers, Doña Flor?”
Kids asked, “May we, *por favor*?”

Her tortillas served as roofs—and more,
as small boats *en el calor*.

Then one day, “R O A R!”
Flor’s pueblo heard a loud, “R O A R!”

Flor felt fright behind every door.

“Doña Flor, Doña Flor, is that you
knocking on our door?”

“Doña Flor, please explore
who’s making that terrible roar.”

Flor and her friends heard, “R O A R!”
and “R O A R!” And “R O A R!”

“Doña Flor, that *gato*’s hungry!
¡Ay! Que horror!”

“Never-more,” said Doña Flor.

(pause)

With huge strides she marched, says lore,
searching miles and miles—and more.

Taller than a house was Flor—and more.
Taller than a tree was Flor—and more.
Taller than a school was Flor—and more.
Taller than a *montaña* was Flor—and more.

(pause)

That night, snuggling with her pets, dear Flor
kept her heart open and soft more—and more.

So like Flor, keep your heart open
and soft, more—and more.

(pause)

And the roar? Lore says Flor said,
“Never-more!”

Oh! Did Flor find the cat? *iPor favor!*
Read the book, not once, not twice,
but more and more.

Glossary

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Doña | DOH nyah | title of respect as in Lady Flor |
| <i>montaña</i> | mohn tah NYAH | mountain |
| <i>en el calor</i> | ehn ehl cah LOR | in the heat |
| <i>por favor</i> | por fah VOR | please |
| pueblo | PWEB loh | village or town |

Notes: I didn't italicize “pueblo” in the poem since it's now in an English dictionary. The letter “o” in Spanish is not exactly like our long “o” in English. It's more like the “o” in the word “boat.”

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