

# *Delicious Hullabaloo / Pachanga deliciosa*

**by Pat Mora**

Inspired by the “music” of the moon and stars on a warm desert evening, colorful armadillos, friendly lizards, buzzing bees and singing birds gather for a moonlit party which they call “a delicious hullabaloo.” As these desert creatures describe and prepare the feast of delicious foods they will eat, the musicians arrive and the dancing begins. Some reminisce of days past and others share plans for days to come, but tonight they invite all to join them in a celebration with friends and family.



## TEACHING OVERVIEW

With brightly colored scenes around them, fanciful animals speak in rhyme about the party they have planned. This book lends itself to the teaching of rhyming words and alliteration both in English and in Spanish, point of view, characters' feelings and new vocabulary. The pictures reveal a desert setting, which would make the book an appropriate addition to a desert unit. Math skills can also be tied in, since the illustrations include many geometric shapes.

## COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

### BEFORE READING

PK-K: Before reading, involve the students in preparing salsa. Preferably, the salsa will include tomatoes, cilantro, and chiles. Call your salsa recipe “Sassy Salsa,” and explain what *sassy* means. Tell the children they are preparing the salsa for a “Delicious Hullabaloo,” or party, you have planned for them. Allow time for sharing about any party they may have had. Set the salsa aside until after the book is read. Preview the book with the students by looking at the illustrations together. Allow children to tell what they think is happening.

Gr. 1 – Gr. 3: The activities for PK – K can also be used

for first, second, or third graders. In addition, introduce the meanings of any new vocabulary. Write the new words on the board or on flashcards. Ask students to suggest rhyming words for *glee*, *mango*, *plot*, *pluck*, *strew*, *sway*, and *zest*. Then talk about words that begin with the same letter, such as *salsa*, *sashaying*, *sassy*, *savoring*, *smacking*. Explain to students that poetry often has rhyming words and/or words that begin with the same sound. If desired, introduce the word *alliteration*.

Ask students to predict what the book is about.

## AS READING PROGRESSES

PK – K: Introduce *Delicious Hullabaloo* as poetry. Read the book to the students. As you read, point out some of the rhyming words. Discuss words that begin alike (alliteration), such as “pluck and play,” “red roundness,” “toss tomatoes,” “plot and plan,” “sassy salsa splashing,” “bees buzz,” and “birds bring blooms.” Discuss who is telling the story and how the animals might feel about the hullabaloo.

Gr. 1 – Gr. 3: Read the book to the students. Questions to ask during reading may include: Who are the characters? Where is this happening? How do the animals feel? Would you like to have a party like this? Do the animals like living in the desert? Do they like each other? What are the rhyming words on this page? Did you notice any words that begin alike? Allow time for students to discuss the book.

## AFTER READING

PK—K: Celebrate the book by having your own hullabaloo. Include foods such as salsa and chips, mangoes, cherries, other fruits, cookies, and juice. Don’t forget the music!

Gr. 1—Gr. 3: If a party was not planned before reading, plan for one now. Have students help in the organization.

They may choose to have a hullabaloo like the one in the book, or they may invent their own type of hullabaloo. Allow student groups to plan the food, the music, and decorations, possibly with volunteer parents assisting. If another class will be invited, have some students write and deliver the invitation. On another day, do a follow-up lesson on rhyming words and/or alliteration.

## OTHER FOLLOW-UP/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. As an art activity in any medium, have students create their own two or three-dimensional fanciful lizards and armadillos in a desert scene.
2. As an additional language arts activity, create puppets of the animals in the story and use them to stage a puppet play.
3. Read a recipe for cookies or cupcakes, and then prepare it together.
4. As a prewriting activity, see, smell, and taste various fruits brought to the classroom. List words that describe them. Then make a fruit salad and eat! Follow up by having students write a description of their favorite fruit.
5. Reread the book and decide if it is reality or fantasy. Compare *Delicious Hullabaloo* to other books by Pat Mora. Decide if each one is reality or fantasy.
6. Do an author study on Pat Mora. As a class, compose a letter to her.
7. In Science, study the various types of desert lizards (colared, gila monster, horned lizard, iguana, and gecko) and compare them. Learn about their habitats.
8. In Science, learn the characteristics of vertebrates in order to classify them as mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, or amphibians. Discuss the animals in the book and decide what vertebrate group would include each one. Name other mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, or amphibians. Find out which ones live in the desert.
9. During Music, listen to a recording of a mariachi band. Make or obtain maracas to shake with the rhythm of the music. Invite a guitarist to come and play for the class.
10. In Math, define and differentiate triangles and rectangles. Use triangles to create fanciful animals other than the ones pictured in the book.

## CONNECTING WITH THE INTERNET/TECHNOLOGY

Armadillos  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/armadillo/Armadilloprintout.shtml>

Iguanas  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/reptiles/lizard/Iguanaprintout.shtml>

Pupfish  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/fish/printouts/Pupfish.shtml>

Desert Animals  
<http://mbgnet.mobot.org/sets/desert/animals/>

The Living Desert  
<http://www.livingdesert.org/animalst.htm>

Pat Mora  
<http://www.patmora.com/>  
<http://voices.cla.umn.edu/authors/MORApat.html>  
<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/mora.html>

Children’s Books and Activities about the Desert  
<http://www.nps.gov/tont/bookstore/children.doc>  
<http://www.superstitionmountainmuseum.org/childrens-books.htm>

## VOCABULARY

appetite	pluck
armadillo	roundness
cilantro	salsa
fiesta	sashaying
glee	sassy
gourmet	savoring
hullabaloo	smacking
mango	strew
plinging	sway
plot	zest



## About the Author

**Pat Mora**, born in El Paso, Texas, is an award-winning poet and author of books for adults, teens, and children. Her awards include a Poetry Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Golden Kite Award, American Library Association Notable Book Awards, and honorary doctorates. A former teacher and university administrator, she is the founder of the family literacy initiative Children's Day, Book Day, El día de los niños / El día de los libros, (Día). The year-long commitment to linking all children to books, languages and cultures, and of sharing what Pat calls "bookjoy," culminates in celebrations across the country in April. Pat lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico and invites you to visit her at [www.patmora.com](http://www.patmora.com).

### OTHER BILINGUAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY PAT MORA

*The Bakery Lady / La señora de la panadería*

ISBN 1-55885-343-X, \$14.95

*Delicious Hullabaloo / Pachanga deliciosa*

ISBN 1-55885-246-8, \$14.95

*The Desert Is My Mother / El desierto es mi madre*

ISBN 1-55885-121-6, \$14.95

*The Gift of the Poinsettia / El regalo de la flor de Nochebuena*

ISBN 1-55885-137-2, \$14.95

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