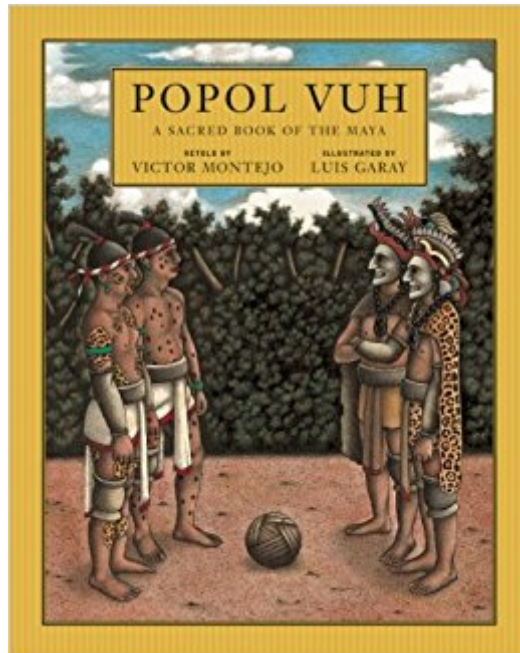




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Popol Vuh: A Sacred Book Of The Maya



Synopsis

The Mayans have long fascinated modern readers with their complex written language, sophisticated mathematics, and advanced astronomy. In Guatemala in 1558, a young Mayan K'iche' man transcribed what he called a sacred book that "we can no longer see." This was the Popul Vuh, the Mayans' written account of the creation of the universe, the gods and demi-gods who occupied that universe, and the story of how man was created by them. Furthermore, it traced, generation by generation, the lineage of the Mayan lords down to their imprisonment and torture by the Spanish invaders. Considered the Mayan bible, the Popol Vuh appears here in an authoritative, gorgeously illustrated version by noted Maya anthropologist Victor Montejo, who has captured all the drama and excitement of one of the world's great creation stories.

Book Information

Paperback: 88 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; Reprint edition (March 1, 2009)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #126,119 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Mayan #22 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other #40 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-Wrathful and kindhearted gods, giants, mortals, jaguars, and colorful birds are some of the characters and creatures that inhabit this creation story and genealogy recorded in the K'iche' (or Quich?) language in 1558 and discovered in 1701 by a Spanish priest. Children will enjoy this accessible retelling of a story that has largely been unavailable in English. Vivid characterizations, tales of revenge and forbidden fruit, tests of wit and strength, and explanations of why deer have

short tails and monkeys live in trees are all here. Full- and double-page paintings rich in color and detail illustrate the volume. A beautifully designed book to be savored on its own or as a source for cultural or comparative studies. Daryl Grabarek, School Library Journal Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Victor Montejo is a distinguished Zapotec Maya / Guatemalan anthropologist, author and professor in the Department of Native American Studies at the University of California at Davis who, after a very long period in exile, returned for a time to Guatemala to work for indigenous rights. He has also written *White Flower: A Maya Princess* / *Blanca Flor: una princesa Maya* for Groundwood. He lives in Davis, California. Luis Garay is a celebrated Nicaraguan illustrator who spent six months in Guatemala doing research for the illustrations in this book. He has also illustrated *Jade and Iron*, *A Handful of Seeds*, *Cousins* / *Primas* and *Alfredito Flies Home* / *Alfredito regresa volando a su casa*. One of the best young Latin American illustrators working today, Luis Garay now lives in Mexico. David Unger, originally from Guatemala, is a well-known translator, poet and novelist who lives in New York City.

Bought it as a gift for my husband who is very interested in Mayan culture. He loved the book, and I loved that it was a hardcover book so it will last to share with my son. The illustrations are beautiful and have rich colors. It is a shorter book at 75 pages, and looks similar to a children's book, but it is still very lovely for adult reading.

FANTASTIC collection by a singer whose voice rivals Sam Cooke.

If you are interested in Mayan culture and history, I highly recommend you read this. We took a trip to Belize and on just about every tour they brought up the Popol Vuh.

My roommate got this as gift for a friend in Mexico. He had misgivings about it being a picture book, but when he saw it, he was pleased with it. Informative and beautiful. It may make a nice cocktail table book. Anyway, he's going to Mexico tomorrow. He's bringing the book on the plane.

Great pictures and a much shorter version!

I have a formal, Spanish translated copy of the Popol Vuh and have not gotten around to reading it.

Fortunately, once I bought this child friendly copy, I read it every night to my children and finished it in a little over a week. I might otherwise have taken much longer to get to the famed book. I am grateful Victor Montejo created this colorful, easy to read, English version.

Very fascinating reading. Delivery of book was timely and it looks great.

Came right on time and great quality

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