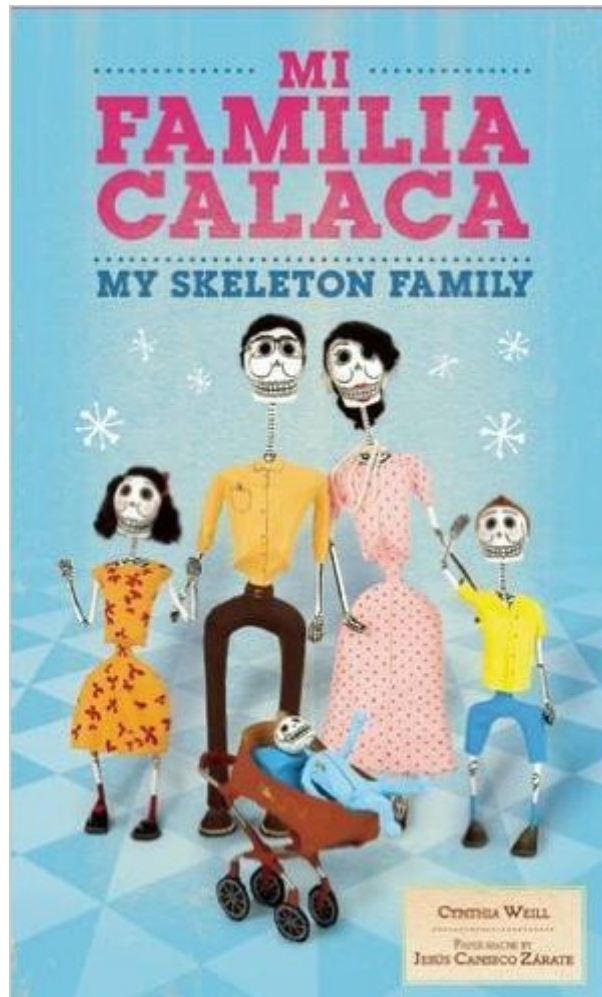


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# Mi Familia Calaca / My Skeleton Family (First Concepts In Mexican Folk Art)



## Synopsis

"The details traditional Oaxacan artist Canseco ZÃ¡rate includes charm as fully as Weill's crunchy vocabulary. . . . '¡tan lindo!'"#151;Kirkus Reviews"ZÃ¡rate's sculptures exude personality."#151;Publishers Weekly>Welcome to the family! It's just like yours, right? But maybe there's something a little bit different about this bunch.Cynthia Weill Mi Familia is Weill's fifth book featuring the folk art of Oaxaca. She is the Director of the Bank Street Center for Childrens' Literature.Jesus Canseco ZÃ¡rate is a Oaxacan folk artist known for his elaborate papier-mache calacas. In 2008, he won first prize in the Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art completion for young artists.

## Book Information

Series: First Concepts in Mexican Folk Art

Paperback: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â  See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #746,451 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #163 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Sculpture #1269 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Spanish #1455 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

My Skeleton Family/Mi Familia Calaca, by Cynthia Weill, doesn't contain much of a story. Its strength lies in the artwork, which is a creative homage to the Mexican tradition of paper machÃ©. Are innovative illustrations enough of a reason to recommend it? For the answer, I turned to a group of picture book experts: my students. They all admired the art and appreciated the easy-to-read text, which boosted my opinion.I work with elementary special education students of various ages, backgrounds, and reading levels. It can be difficult to find books of high interest but low vocabulary. Many of the words in Skeleton Family/Mi Familia Calaca were repeated from page to page, which

meant as soon as my struggling readers figured out the words on the first couple of pages, the hardest part was over. Moreover, the more difficult words, like *abuelos*, my students quickly guessed from the detailed artwork. As for the material being high interest, two factors helped. First, the title: *My Skeleton Family/Mi Familia Calaca*. While skeletons are a humorous symbol in Mexico, to my students (no matter what their ethnic background) skeletons represent horror. And horror creates high interest! Second, the imaginative artwork kept them captivated. My students wanted to know how each family member would be portrayed, what each skeleton would wear, etc. Their favorite characters, bar none, were the pets. For me, those latter two features also remain the selling point. Initially I picked up *My Skeleton Family/Mi Familia Calaca*, because the topic intrigued me. Who would write about skeletons? Who would write about a skeleton family? And what would such a story entail? As I flipped through the pages, what entranced me were the illustrations.

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