

Name:

Day One

La Catrina

Part 1: Silent read

→ La Catrina is a famous skeleton. Read silently.

You cannot have the Day of the Dead without La Catrina! *La Calavera Catrina* means The Catrina Skull. La Catrina first appeared as a sketch around 1910. The sketch shows a skeleton in an elaborate hat. It was meant to criticize Mexican people who dressed like Europeans.

Decades later, Diego Rivera included La Catrina in a famous mural. He painted her as a tall skeleton wearing a white ballgown and a broadbrim hat. Rivera thought that La Catrina represented Mexicans' comfort with death. Marina Lozano is an art teacher from Mexico. She says, "For us Mexicans, death does not scare us. We dress her up nicely."

La Catrina has also become a symbol of the Day of the Dead. The Day of the Dead is a holiday on the first two days of November. It celebrates the lives of loved ones who have died. The Day of the Dead is popular throughout Mexico. Parts of South America and the U.S. also celebrate this holiday.

Day of the Dead traditions vary depending on where you live. Some people have altars in their homes to remember loved ones. Many people include La Catrina on these altars. Other people visit the graveyard and decorate their family's tombstones. Some towns gather together for a big celebration. Women often dress up as La Catrina. They wear fancy dresses and paint their faces as beautiful skulls. On the Day of the Dead, La Catrina is everywhere.

Source: "Mexico's Grand Dame of the Dead, the Story Behind La Catrina," *Chicago Tribune*, October 30, 2017.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What does La Catrina represent?

What parts of the world celebrate the Day of the Dead?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

You cannot have the Day of the Dead / without La Catrina! // La Calavera Catrina / means The Catrina Skull. // La Catrina first appeared as a sketch / around 1910. // The sketch shows a skeleton / in an elaborate hat. // It was meant to criticize Mexican people / who dressed like Europeans. //

Decades later, / Diego Rivera included La Catrina / in a famous mural. // He painted her as a tall skeleton / wearing a white ballgown and a broadbrim hat. // Rivera thought that La Catrina / represented Mexicans' comfort with death. // Marina Lozano is an art teacher from Mexico. // She says, / "For us Mexicans, / death does not scare us. // We dress her up nicely." //

La Catrina has also become a symbol / of the Day of the Dead. // The Day of the Dead is a holiday / on the first two days of November. // It celebrates the lives / of loved ones who have died. // The Day of the Dead is popular / throughout Mexico. // Parts of South America and the U.S. / also celebrate this holiday. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.