

# Too Many Tamales

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Latino Culture, Holidays, Family, Honesty

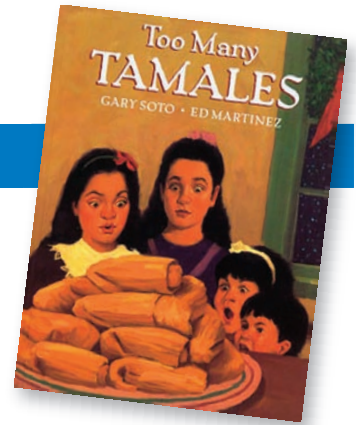
**Grade Level:** K to 3rd grade

**Book Brief:** Maria and her cousins put their stomachs to the test to find her mom's lost wedding ring.

**Author:** Gary Soto

**Illustrator:** Ed Martinez

**Content Connections:**  
Social Studies, Math



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What can the students tell about the story based on the cover

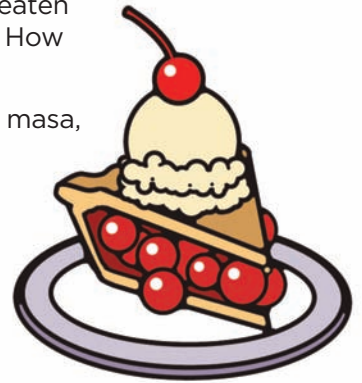
illustrations and the title? Who are the kids on the front cover? Why are their eyes so big? What are they looking at? What's a tamale?

**The Pictures:** For younger children, take a quick picture walk through the book. Have students make predictions about the plot based just on the pictures. What time of year does this story take place? How can we tell?

**Prior Knowledge:** Make sure all students know what a tamale is. Do students have any special foods they eat only at holidays or celebrations? What are their favorites? Have they ever eaten too much of those foods? How do they feel afterwards?

**Vocabulary:** drifted, dusk, masa, kneaded, tamales

**Purpose for Reading:**  
As we read today, think about what you would have done if you were Maria.



## WHILE WE READ



### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

◆ Why didn't Maria listen to her mom? Why didn't she tell her mom right away she lost the wedding ring?

- ◆ What do you think made Maria remember the ring?
- ◆ Why did Maria's cousins agree to help her?
- ◆ Why does each child take just one bite of the final tamale?
- ◆ Why does everyone laugh at the end of the story?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: "What would you have done if you were Maria? Would you have put your mom's ring on? Would you have tried to eat all the tamales?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students to think about a time when they did something wrong or made a mistake and tried to cover it up instead of asking for help. What happened? Did they get in trouble? Would it have been better if they'd just been honest in the first place?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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