



How the Sea Began: A Taino Myth

By George L. Crespo

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A clever hunter, a great storm, and four mischievous, hungry boys remake the face of the earth by creating the sea and the Lesser Antilles islands, in a vivid retelling of an ancient Tai+a7no myth.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Taken from the first ethnological study done in the New World, this *pourquoi* story makes a strong contribution to the growing number of books preserving ancient tales of early cultures. When Yayael, a great hunter among Puerto Rico's Taino natives, disappears during a hurricane, his parents place his powerful bow and arrow in a gourd hanging from the ceiling. One day the gourd fills with fish enough for all the hungry villagers; but when some curious boys are asked to protect this magical food source, catastrophe occurs. They inadvertently break the gourd, and "in an instant everything in the hut was afloat." Torrents "flowed and rose to cover the land" and eventually "all kinds of sea creatures came out of the gourd to fill the water with life"--the villagers will never hunger again. Crespo's debut book successfully combines a spare, to-the-point retelling with stylized, brightly colored oil paintings that playfully echo forms and faces from early masks and sculpture without being too abstract for a child's comprehension. A concluding pronunciation guide and notes on the Taino culture will be helpful for teachers and parents. Ages 5-8.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2-5-- This simple retelling of a Taino myth explains how the sea was formed when salt-water and ocean creatures poured from the burial gourd of the best hunter in the village, creating the island of Puerto Rico. Crespo's primitive oil paintings reflect the harmonious colors of nature: the blues of sky and ocean, the oranges and browns of earth, the reds and yellows of sunrise and sunset, the greens of vegetation. The people's brightly hued clothing and color-coordinated accessories may add to the book's visual appeal, but not its accuracy. This unusual Puerto Rican Indian legend provides an interesting read-aloud as well as a cultural lesson. Source notes and a pronunciation guide are appended. --Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Josephine Lowe:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information these days can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even an issue. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take *How the Sea Began: A Taino Myth* as the daily resource information.

Ronda Hagerty:

The book untitled *How the Sea Began: A Taino Myth* contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was published by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep

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