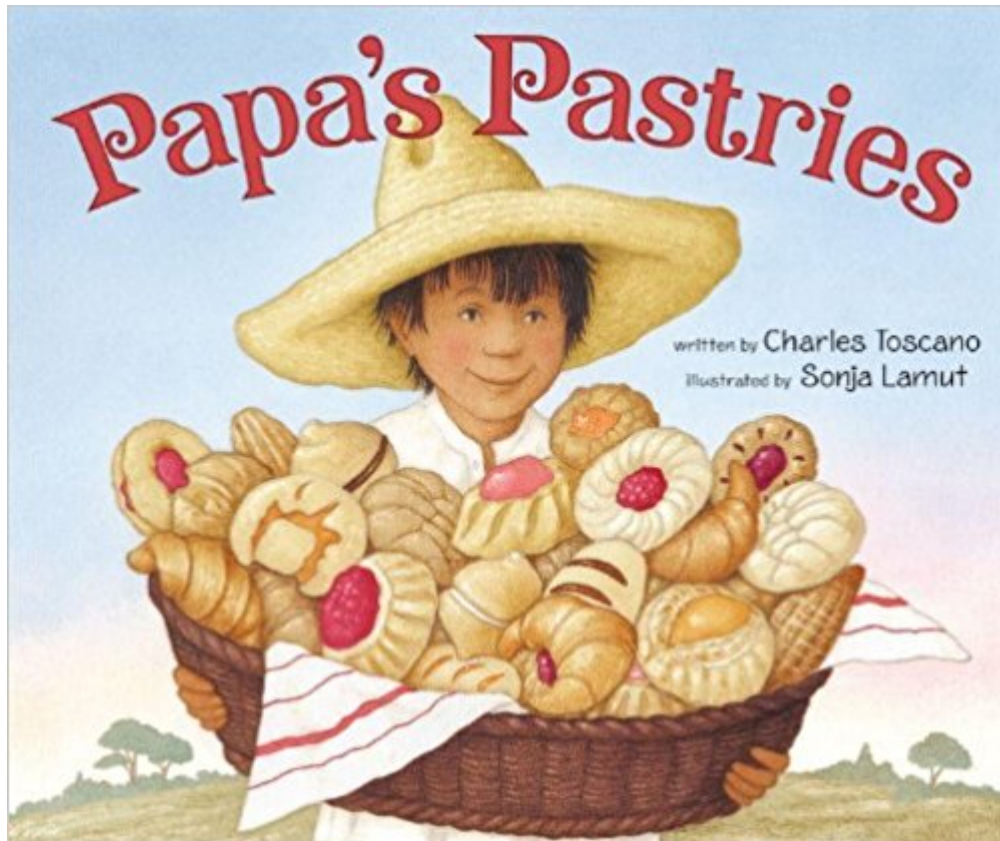




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# Papa's Pastries



## Synopsis

"Miguel's family needs a new roof, firewood, and clothing to survive the winter. Miguel hope his father, a pastry peddler, will sell enough tasty treats to buy the things they need. But all the villagers they meet have also endured great hardship, and Miguel's father gives his pastries to those who need them most. Miguel feels heartbroken. Then something happens that teaches him that kindness is far more valuable than money."

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 "On a cold morning, Miguel wakes up to the sound of raindrops dripping from the hole in the roof of his house. Outside, he overhears his father's worried prayer in which he asks God for a new roof, firewood he needs for his pastry business, and clothes for his family. Without these things, they will not survive. Together, Miguel and his father fill a large sack with already made pastries, and they journey to three nearby villages where they hope to sell them. When they enter each village, Papa sings and the villagers sing, dance, and clap along with him, for he is well known for his beautiful voice. But times are hard, and no one has money for his wares. When he notices villagers who need help, he ends up giving all his pastries away. When he returns home, Mama is clearly exasperated. The next morning brings a heartwarming solution to the family's woes as neighbors from the three villages come to visit and use their various talents to repay Papa's kindness. That

night, Miguel prays, "Thank you for your loving kindness. And thank you, Lord, for my Papa. Amen." • Soft, sweet illustrations accompany this gentle story. The use of Spanish words and the pictures of the people, landscape, village scenes, and clothing suggest that the setting is Mexico or perhaps, a South American country. "Mary N. Oluonye, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH" (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Good deeds and faith play a major role in this parable about trusting in providence. Young Miguel and his family live in a small house with a leaky roof. Winter is coming, firewood is scarce, and the children's clothes are worn thin. Papa is sure, though, that when he brings his last batch of pastries to market, the money he makes will be more than sufficient. Alas, Miguel, accompanying his father, grows more and more anxious when, in village after village, no one buys the treats, citing their own hardships. What is worse, kindhearted Papa keeps giving away pastries to people with hard-luck stories. "Kindness is far more valuable than money," Papa says. Reward comes the next day when the pastries' recipients respond to the family's need in kind. Although the story is predictable, its Mexican-countryside setting sets it apart. Lamut's idealized illustrations portray warm characters in traditional costumes, dancing, singing, and marketing. A good choice for collections where there is demand for religion-themed stories. Preschool-Grade 1. --Karen Cruze

I was a bit biased in its favor when this book arrived because I had already heard good things about it. And then I read it. And then I fell in love with it. I am not exaggerating when I call this my new favorite children's book. (Side note: I've been collecting children's books since high school. I love them. Instead of getting souvenirs to commemorate vacations, I've always gotten a kids' book. Now that I have two kids, I spend even more time reading and loving children's literature. In other words, it's a high honor for me to label any children's book as my number one. But this one is. It's just that good.) I love the sacrificial giving. I love the compassion shown by Papa and then returned to him. I love the lessons about faith and obedience to God learned by his family (and readers). I love that the pastries look just like the pan dulce pastries I used to buy in Mexico. It's hard to summarize a children's story without giving too much away, so I'll just copy here what it says on the inside flap of the dust cover: "Miguel's family needs a new roof, firewood, and clothing to survive the winter. Miguel hope his father, a pastry peddler, will sell enough tasty treats to buy the things they need. But all the villagers they meet have also endured great hardship, and Miguel's father gives his pastries to those who need them most. Miguel feels heartbroken. Then something happens that

teaches him that kindness is far more valuable than money."This is a classic moralistic story done well. It's beautiful. Sincere. Simple. Amazing. Unforced. Touching. Get it for yourself. And then get it for everyone else you know. It's just that good. (The FTC requires that I disclose that Zonderkidz provided this book for me to review. Zonderkidz, however, didn't ask for a positive review, just an honest one. Plus I've now purchased TWO as gifts, and I'll be buying a third once I get my friend's new address...so, while I didn't buy my review copy, I have purchased a couple copies after receiving the one to review.)

A friend suggested I look at Charles Toscano's book for my grandson. It's a beautiful book! I love the values and sentiments it embodies. The story and "message" are timeless and inclusive, despite the rural context. It's also beautifully illustrated. My urban grandson asks for it when we read together. I've since ordered several copies for other children in our life. It's a perfect gift, and I hope this author has more to come!

This is a very sweet book, my 3 year old enjoyed it, although probably it is more appropriate for a 4 or 5 year old

This book is so lovely and so beautifully illustrated. Mr. Toscano creates a story for children that is entertaining and teaches a lesson in giving and receiving. I will buy one for each of my grandchildren and know that each will treasure this book. I hope we hear more from this author.

We love this book! All 4 of my children, ages 3 - 10 enjoy reading it over and over. (Mom and Dad do too!)

This is one of the best new children's books of this year. In a society where too many people put themselves first, this book is a breath of fresh air. As I read "Papa's Pastries" and learned how even this poor man gave all he could to help those in need, I was reminded of the words of Jesus, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto Me". This is a great book to teach children about giving to those in need, and there is nothing preachy about it. Papa simply does what needs to be done and as the story reveals all things work out well. I highly recommend this book. Buy copies for the kids in your lives, and donate a copy to your school and/or church library.

This is the classic story of the rewards of giving to those less fortunate than oneself. It is a very nice

read with wonderful illustrations. I don't think kids (and adults) can get enough of these stories. My boys were very interested through the entire story and often asking questions about why people had so little and why you would give things away. This book creates great opportunities to discuss the importance of giving. Religion isn't a theme in this story but, there are a couple of pages in which the father and child pray, "Dear Lord...".

I didn't have high expectations for this book after reading the description provided. Often times books that say they convey a particular message do so in a way that seems forced or trite. My five year old saw the cover of the book and asked me if I would pick this book so she could hear the story. I'm happy I got her the book. This beautifully illustrated story is about a poor family whose home and clothing are in need of repair. The father, a baker, hopes to sell his pastries to earn money to see his family through the winter months. As Miguel and his papa go from town to town hoping to sell the pastries but instead they find themselves running into people who are needier than themselves. Papa shows kindness to those in need even if it's to his own family's detriment. In the end, Miguel learns the value of kindness. Those who Papa showed kindness to come to repay that kindness. It's a lovely book that shows that God will provide. It's a simple story that speaks volumes. It would be a great book to share with a Sunday school class. I teach a kindergarten CCD class and I plan to incorporate this book into my lesson plans. I'm sure the children will love the story and grasp its simple yet powerful message. I think this book will resonate best with children between the ages of 3-6.

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