The Three Little Tamales

While three little tamales cool off on a windowsill, a tortilla rolls by. You'll be eaten. You'd better run, he tells them. And so the tamales jump out the window. The first runs to the prairie and builds a house of sagebrush. The second runs to a cornfield and builds a house of cornstalks. The third runs to the desert and builds a house of cactus.

Then who should come along but Señor Lobo, the Big Bad Wolf, with plans to blow their houses down. Valeria Docampo's oil-and-pencil illustrations add zest and humor to this rollicking southwestern version of a popular tale.

My Personal Review:
"The Three Little Tamales" is basically a retelling of the classic Three Little Pigs tale, with a Mexican flavor. It is cute, and the illustrations by Valeria Docampo add a lot of life and color to the tale. Three little tamales see a runaway tortilla, who warns them that they should run away too if they do not wish to be eaten. So the three little tamales make their way in the desert, choosing to set up individual homes a la the three little pigs. And just like that classic tale, the Big Bad Wolf comes along, i.e. Señor Lobo, and the rest follows pretty close to the classic tale.

I loved the Mexican flavor to this classic tale, and it is refreshing to see a beloved fairy tale given a new spin. The story is enhanced by the beautiful, full color illustrations, and there is even a glossary at the beginning of the book which gives the English translation & pronunciation guide of the Spanish words used in the text, e.g. lobo (LOH-bo) - wolf, etc. This makes a perfect read-aloud picture book for children aged 4-8. Highly recommended!

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