INCLUDES GOOGLE[™] SLIDES

Story & discussion

A spooky Halloween alternative for middle school

LA LLORONA: THE WEEPING WOMAN Devastated after her husband abandons her, a Mexican woman named

LA LLORONA: THE WEEPING WOM

Centuries ago, a beautiful young woman named Maria lived in a rur villaae in Mexico. Her beauty and kindness were well-known thround

Centuries ago, a beautiful young woman named Maria lived in a rurr vilage in Mexico. Her beauty and kindness were well-known through vilage. Though her family was poor, Maria gained the attentions of weditny Spanish gentleman passing through her village. Son pily acc met, the gentleman proposed mariage to Maria. She happily acc

wealthy Spanish gentleman passing through her village. Soon after met, the gentleman proposed marriage to Maria. She happily acc

As the years went by, however, Maria grew increasingly unhapp mariage. Her husband stayed out for days at a time and paid r to Maria. Though Maria loved her children, she wept every day she wished she had.

There came a day when Maria's husband did not come hon knocked on all the doors in the village but could not fir gossiped that Maria's husband had run off to be with woman.

Maria did not know what to do. How could her that? How way ind the feed her chadron with an

Maria aid not know what to do. How could her that? How would she feed her children withou

Devastated, Maria put on a k

avasiarea, mana pur on a k hite veil and took her childr

walked slowly toward

em both.

erbank, Maria held

to the early-1500

Why do you think people

have told this story for

several hundred years?

What is it about La Llorona that fascinates us?

Discussion Que

ghost stori

ral tradition

at does

arry-1500s, when spon tadors were conquer hizing Mexico and Cei What does this story

Discussion Question 4

Some stories of La Llorona make Maria out to be a victim. In what ways is Maria

a victim, and does being a victim justify her crimes?

she wished she had.

woman.

GRADES

6-9

Maria drowns her two children, then herself. Her spirit is cursed to wander the earth, looking for her children's souls.

This story originates in Mexico and has many versions and similarities to other stories across Central and South America.

Alternate names for La Llorona include: The Wailing Woman, The Cryer, and the Woman in White

Parents in Mexico tell this story to their children to encourage them to hurry home before dark. It is said that if children hear La Llorona's cries, she may mistake the children for her own and try to kidnap them.

The stories of La Llorona vary widely. In some versions, Maria is seen as a sympathetic mother who kills her children out of a minute of insanity or use she is so overcome with grief at her husband's betrayal. Discussion Question 1

Maria as a vain and vengeful woman who killed her husband after he left her. rona dates back

e husband is not a good man. He marries a very young her because she isn't beautiful enough for him. In stories I the Spanish gentleman were unmarried, the gentleman and the children because he never intended to marry a n. He marries a wealthy Spanish woman instead.



Variations of the ns of La Llorona say that Maria's I but he continued to dote on the d get revenge on her husband for lea

n whether there were two or th

ay Maria and the Spanishe ith him and pushed him to n ied a high-born Spanish lady

La Llorona will snatch up oth red her own children. She doe

te story say that a demon tricke to find her children's souls. In the ren's souls are already in heave

La Malinche

story from Mexico about a wo was a native Nahua woman w Cortés came to Mexico, La Mali ally, his mistress. She bore him or

nce that La Malinche kiilled I La Malinche committing act

prs devastated the ancier Aztec mythology told of omen was that of a wom

TWO FORMATS



LA LLORONA: THE WEEPING WOMAN Centuries ago, a beautiful young woman named Maria lived in a rural Centuries ago, a beautiful young woman namea Maria ilivea in a rurai village in Mexico. Her beauty and kindness were well-known throughout the village. Though her family was poor, Maria gained the attentions of a village. Though her family was poor, Maria gained the attentions of a wealthy Spanish gentleman passing through her village. Soon after they met, the gentleman proposed marriage to Maria. She happily accepted. As the years went by, however, Maria grew increasingly unhappyin her As the years went by, nowever, mana grew increasingly unhappyin her marriage. Her husband stayed out for days at a time and paid no attention to Maria Thomas Maria lawad has abilitian the Wort average day for the life to Maria. Though Maria loved her children, she wept every day for the life she wished she had. There came a do Inere came a day when the band of the band of the chert use still. Maria gossiped that Ministria to the band of th Maria did not know what to do. How could her husband just leave her like Maria ala norknow what to ao, now could her hospanajost leave ter in that? How would she feed her children without her husband's support? Devastated, Maria put on a long white dress. She covered her head with a white veil and took her children by the hands. With one child on either side, Maria walked slowly toward the river at the edge of the village. From the

soggy riverbank. Maria held her children beneath the shallow water and

Soon after, Maria realized what she'd done and was horrified by her own actions. She begged her children to forgive her, but the river had already washed their bodies away. Consumed by grief, Maria plunged herself into the water and drowned herself, too.

Maria could not enter heaven without the souls of her children. Maria returned to earth to find them, but she has never succeeded. To this day, on moonlit nights in Mexico, Maria's ghost—now called La Llorona—walks up and down riverbanks, crying and calling out for her two children to come h

Both formats include La Llorona background, story, and variations + discussion questions. This resource is NOT editable.

LA LLORONA BACKGROUND, STORY, AND VARIATIONS

LA LLORONA: THE WEEPING WOMAN

Devastated after her husband abandons her, a Mexican woman named Maria drowns her two children, then herself. Her spirit is cursed to wander the earth, looking for her children's souls.

This story originates in Mexico and has many versions and similarities to other stories across Central and South America.

LA LLORONA: THE WEEP

Centuries ago, a beautiful young woman nan Village in Mexico. Her beauty and kindness we

Village in Mexico. Her Deauly and Kindness we village. Though her family was poor. Maria go

Village. Inough her ramily was poor, Mana go wealthy Spanish gentleman passing through

wearing spanish gentieman passing mrough met, the gentleman proposed marriage to

As the years went by, however, Maria grev

As the years went by, nowever, Mana grev marriage. Her husband stayed out for day to Maria Though Maria Invited her charter

marmage. Her husband stayed out for aan to Maria. Though Maria loved her childre the withed the herd

she wished she had.

woman.

There came a day when Maria's husbe

Inere came a day when Maria's husbo knocked on all the doors in the village

knocked on all the doors in the village gossiped that Maria's husband had n

Maria did not know what to do. Ho that? How would she feed her chil

Devastated, Maria put on a long

white veil and took her children

drowned them both.

Willie velicitic look tier children Maria Walked slowly toward the soggy riverbank. Maria held he

NO

ch

N

to her.

Alternate names for La Llorona include: The Wailing Woman, The Cryer, and the Woman in White.

Parents in Mexico tell this story to their children to encourage them to hurry home before dark. It is said that if children hear La Llorona's cries, she may mistake the children for her own and try to kidnap them.

The stories of La Llorona vary widely. In some versions, Maria is seen as a sympathetic mother who kills her children out of a minute of insanity or because she is so overcome with grief at her husband's betraval.

Other stories portray Maria as a vain and vengeful woman who killed her children to spite her husband after he left her.

In most versions, the husband is not a good man. He marries a very young Maria and leaves her because she isn't beautiful enough for him. In stories where Maria and the Spanish gentleman were unmarried, the gentleman abandons Maria and the children because he never intended to marry a poor local woman. He marries a wealthy Spanish woman instead.



is. The sixth omen was that of a woman ing in the night for her children.

THE WEEPING WOMAN

that Maria's husbandignored Maria as she

dote on the children. Maria drowned the

sband for leaving her for a younger, more

two or three children, and whether they

ish gentleman never married. Maria

to marry her, but he abandoned

Ip other children and drown them,

e does this hoping her own children

n tricked La Llorona when he sent

heaven and that La Llorona will

In these stories, the demon

oman who really existed. When

ut a woman named La

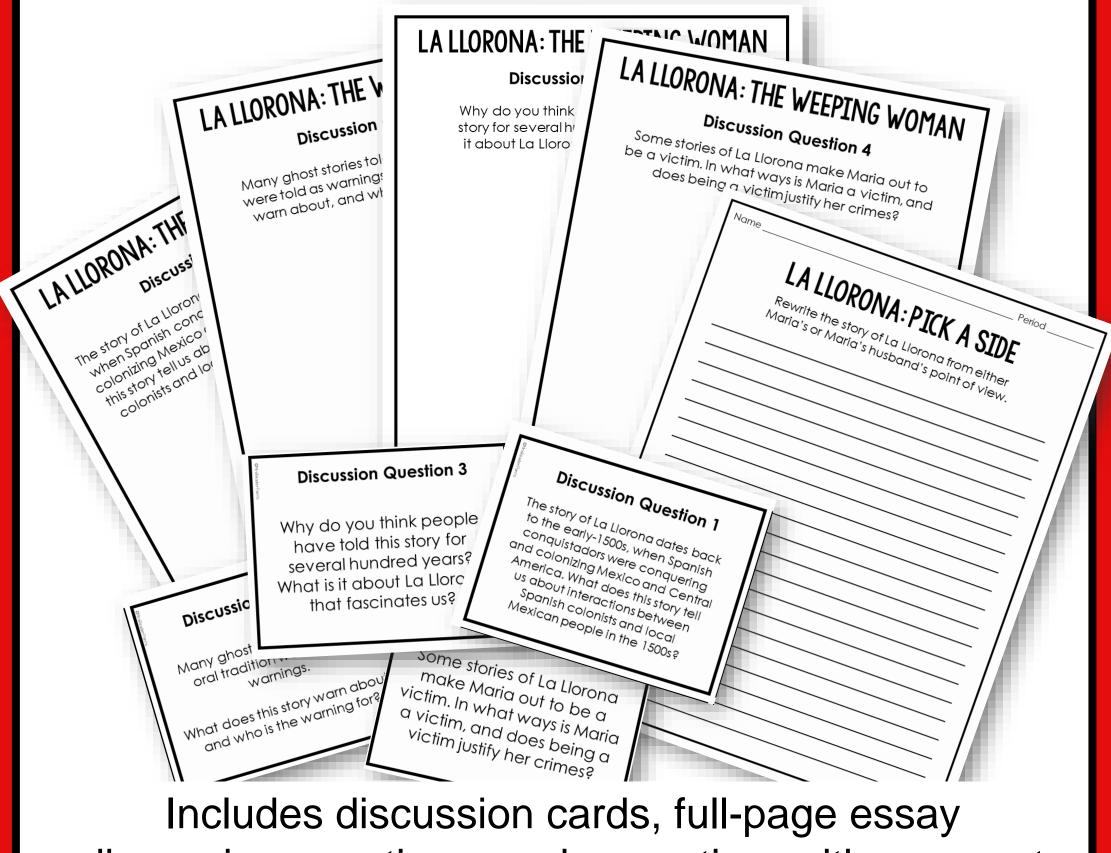
a Malinche served as his

d her

im one child before Cortes

3 pages, illustrated, not editable

4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



discussion questions, and a creative writing prompt

MORE ALTERNATIVES TO HALLOWEEN

