

The Weeping Woman (La Llorona) as told by Joe Hayes

What is the name of this story?

Who is Joe Hayes?

A long time ago in a poor village there was a good looking girl named Maria. She was the most beautiful girl in the world! And because she was so beautiful, Maria thought she was better than everyone else.

Who was Maria?

Why did she think she was better than everybody else?

Would you like Maria? Why or why not?

As Maria grew older, she became more beautiful and more proud. When she was a young woman, she didn't even look at the young men from her village. They weren't good enough for her! "When I marry," Maria said, "I will marry the most handsome man in the world."

What happened when Maria grew older?

What does the author mean "she didn't look at the young men"?

And then one day, a young rancher from a rich family came into her village. He was handsome! And he could play the guitar and sing beautifully. Maria decided that he was the man for her!

What did Maria think of the young rancher? Why?

What do you think will happen?

Before long, she and the ranchero became engaged and soon they were married. At first, things were fine. They had two children and they seemed to be a happy family together. But after a few years, the ranchero went back to the wild life of the prairies. He sometimes left town and was gone for months. And when he came home, it was only to visit his children. He seemed to care nothing for the beautiful Maria. Sometimes he said he wanted to marry a rich woman of his class.

How did the rancher change?

How would you feel?

What would you do?

Maria was a proud woman and she became very angry with the ranchero. She also began to feel anger toward her children, because he paid attention to them, but just ignored her.

How did Maria feel? Why?

One evening, Maria was walking with her two children by the river. The rancher came by in a carriage with a rich woman. He stopped and spoke to his children, but he didn't even look at Maria. Then he left with the rich woman.

*Who do you think is the rich woman?
What do you think will happen?*

When Maria saw that, she became terribly angry, and she turned against her children. She took her two children and threw them into the river! But as they disappeared down the river, she realized what she had done! She ran down the river and tried to save them. But they were gone.

*Why did Maria get angry at her children?
Why did Maria run after her children after she threw them in the water?*

The next morning, the people found her dead by the river.

But the first night after they buried Maria, the people heard the sound of crying down by the river. It was not the wind, it was La Llorona crying. "Where are my children?" And they saw a woman walking by the river. They called her La Llorona, the weeping woman.

Why does La Llorona walk by the river?

And now, parents tell their children not to go out in the night because La Llorona might catch them.

Why do the parents tell their children about La Llorona?