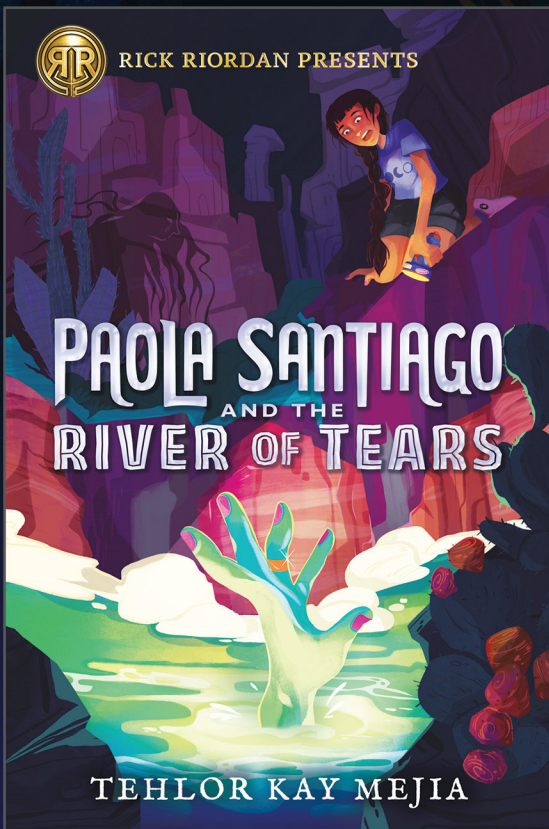




RICK RIORDAN PRESENTS

# PAOLA SANTIAGO

TEHLOR KAY MEJIA



SERIES EVENT KIT

Disney • HYPERION



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# PAOLA SANTIAGO

Tehlor Kay Mejia

## EVENT KIT



## GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE THE PAOLA SANTIAGO SERIES

### DÉCOR

To prepare for your event celebrating the arrival of the Paola Santiago books, introduce the atmosphere of Arizona landscapes and the Gila River into your space or the lush forests of the Pacific Northwest. Backdrops of rocks and cacti outlines or a landscape of fir trees will get attendees into the spirit of the chilling adventure Pao and her friends embark upon in these novels. Use butcher paper to create your backdrops; add to the scene the magical Gila River and a field of stars, perfect for a night of stargazing, a favorite activity of Pao, Dante, and Emma. For extra fun, adorn your space with cutouts of mythical creatures like the Chupacabra, the hitchhiking ghost, or an outline of La Llorona herself. And for a little bit of silliness, don't forget to include possibly the deadliest weapon of all—the magical Chancla.

### FOODS

No party is complete is complete without snacks! Battling mind-bending monsters and relentless spirits is no small feat, and your event attendees are sure to be hungry after completing the own epic river adventures inspired by the Paola Santiago series. Be sure to have yummy refreshments on hand to entice your party-goers with. Try these Pao-approved and -inspired refreshments.

- Fruits, veggies, and cheese cut into shapes like stars and rockets
- Guacamole, salsa, and chips
- Mini tamales, burritos, and quesadillas
- Goldfish crackers
- Red Hots and Hot Tamale candies
- Chocolate candy bars of all kinds (Pao, Dante, and Emma approved, of course)

- Cookies in the shapes of bright stars, rockets, fish, and for extra fun, Chanclas (slippers or flip-flops)
- Green cactus cupcakes
- Blue River water punch (with dry ice and floating plastic hands for extra effect) or bottles of Gila River “Agua”

### ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS TO GET THE PARTY STARTED!

Get your Paola Santiago event started right by using the following activities and crafts to get readers into a spooky spirit, La Llorona style!

### WHAT'S IN THAT BAG?

For Pao and Dante, the gift of Señora Mata's crocheted bag with seemingly normal objects that ultimately prove themselves to be quite extraordinary. For your Paola Santiago event, prepare bags of with 3–4 ordinary but random objects. Divide readers into small groups and give each group a bag and a brief amount of time to work together to decide what unexpected ways each of these objects might also creatively or magically used. After all groups finish, circle around and have each group share what's in their bag.

### MEET, MINGLE, AND MISREPRESENT

Because of her mother's seemingly irrational fear of La Llorona, Paola often finds herself having to “fib” to her mom so she can join her friends at the Gila River, the best stargazing location around. For a party icebreaker, have event attendees write out three statements about themselves on large cards. Two of the statements should be facts about themselves (for example, *I like to eat carrots* or *blue is my favorite color*) with one statement

that is false (for example, *I have gone skydiving before*), but all three statements need to be plausible. After everyone has had a chance to write their three statements, have attendees walk around the room and introduce themselves to each other. After the instruction, ask them to read each other's statements and try to guess which one is the lie. Give each player stickers they can offer the other player if that player guesses the correct "lie" statement. At the end of the round, the player who discovered the most fibs wins a prize of your choosing.

## FLASH LIGHT, FLASH RIGHT RELAY RACE

In the first installment of Paola Santiago, the flashlight given to her by her absent father becomes an invaluable tool and compass to guide her on her way to rescue her friends and, at times, herself. For this leg-stretching activity, group readers into teams and have them line up, single file. Next, select a destination a short distance away—a wall, tree, fence, etc., and have a Paola Santiago–inspired piece of art or object there as the target. Have the first person in each group hold the flashlight, and at "Go!" this player must turn on the flashlight and shine it at the target while running to toward it to touch it and return to their group. Before they return, they have to turn that light off (just like in Pao's case, it's important to conserve that flashlight's beam); if they don't, they have to return to the target to do it again. Upon a successful return, they have to hand it to the next person in line and the relay continues, with the first team to have all members make it to the target and back winning!

## SPACE IS THE PLACE TO MIX IT UP RELAY RACE!

For Pao, all things space and science related is where it's at, and watching space launches like SpaceX and Blue Origin help her dream about her future adventures away in the galaxy or beyond no matter what the mode of transportation is. Like Pao, ask participants to "mix it up" for this adrenaline-pumping relay. First, divide attendees into small groups (4–5) for each group. Next, explain the rules. Players must travel from point A to point B and back again, in turns, until the whole team has participated, but there's one catch—they have to mix it up! No one player on the team can travel in the same manner as a teammate (one ones, one jumps, one crabwalks, one hops, one skips, and so on). For added spooky fun, purchase plastic hands online (as a nod to

Pao's spooky dreams and the *Paola Santiago and the River of Tears* book cover) and distribute one to each team. As team members work their way to and from, have them bring a "floating" hand along with them.

## DESIGN YOUR OWN MAGICAL MONSTER PET

In the first installment of the Paola Santiago series (*Paola Santiago and the River of Tears*), Pao dreams of having a dog of her own, so it's no surprise when she falls in love with Bruto, a puppy Chupacabra she meets while fighting to free her friends from La Llorona. Lead a group discussion about what the advantages and disadvantages would be of owning a magical pet. Next, give each participant an easy-to-use and fast-hardening clay and have them sculpt their dream monster pet with their own hands. After drying, provide a craft station with paint, glue, feather, beads, and other decorative options to enhance their pet. For the final step, have readers name their "pet" and provide a certificate of "adoption" so they can take their magical monster pet home.

## CREATE SOME SPACE

One of the most fun elements of reading the Paola Santiago series is learning more about Paola's love of science and her fascination with space and star gazing. After putting readers in groups, preview and share images of our solar system, and then encourage readers to design and create their own, including the naming of the planets within their new system. Be sure to offer participants art supplies including paints, fishing wire, and a variety of Styrofoam balls of various sizes, and let the world building begin!

## 3, 2, 1, PAO BLASTS OFF! BUILD A ROCKET

Nobody loves science like Pao, and it's her ultimate dream to someday go into outer space. As a nod to Pao and the other space-loving party participants, gather the following materials and provide a craft station for rocket building (don't worry—these rockets won't travel far).

### Materials Needed:

- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Scissors
- Assorted card stock (cut to the length of your toilet paper roll and long enough to cover the roll when wrapped around)
- Card stock circles (about 4 inches in diameter) with a cut slit halfway through to the center (the radius of the circle)
- Strips of assorted ribbon (to make “fire” streamers out of the bottom of the rocket)
- Tape or glue
- Aluminum foil

### Instructions:

Set out the assorted materials for the readers with a step-by-step example on how to build their own Pao+inspired rocket.

1. Wrap card stock around the toilet paper roll and adhere with glue or tape.
2. Fold a card stock circle into a cone shape and tape together to hold. Using glue or tape, stick the paper cone to the top of the toilet paper roll.
3. Tape small pieces of ribbon to the inside bottom of the paper roll to create “fire.”
4. Cut shapes or strips of aluminum foil and affix to the paper-covered toilet paper roll with glue or tape to decorate the rocket.
5. When finished, hang with fishing line to help decorate your Pao party.

## SHARING OUR STORIES: THE WEEPING WOMAN

In *Paola Santiago and the River of Tears*, Tehlor Kay Mejia offers a fresh take on the Mexican legend of La Llorona (which translates into “The Weeping Woman”); it is one of many “white ladies” stories told in modern myths and legends around the world. Have readers work independently or team up in pairs or small groups to create their own original “Weeping Woman” tale. Share the following instructions:

### Instructions:

Begin by brainstorming and using or creating a SWBST chart (Somebody/Wanted/But/So/Then) to guide the story's creation (consider offering an example from a well-known story). Though La Llorona's stories are typically a bit spooky, remember you are the architect of your story. After your team's tale is complete, decide how to share your tale with the group and let the spooky, funny, or silly storytelling begin!

## SPOOKY STORY PASS

While the Paola Santiago books are clever, twisty, imaginative, and exciting tales, much like La Llorona and the hitchhiking ghost, the novels have elements that are chilling and creepy. Lead a discussion with all readers by asking the group the following questions:

- How do you make yourself feel better when things get too scary?
- Why do we sometimes have fun being scared?

Next, have readers gather in pairs or small groups to start their own spooky story but do it with a twist. After giving them five minutes to begin a story, have them pause and pass their story to the group to their right. Once all stories have been exchanged, have the groups read the story they received and continue the story for them. After six minutes, call pause again and do another exchange. This time give each group five minutes to plan and then begin to finish this story in its third pass. After all stories are “finished,” ask for volunteers to read and share their spooky tale.

## LET'S ALL LEND A HAND (WITH REPRODUCIBLE PLEDGE SHEET)

In the Paola Santiago novels, Pao and her friends are very aware of how their global footprints impact the planet, and they demonstrate their commitment to being environmentally conscious. Lead a discussion about why Pao, Diego, and Emma feel this way, and allow readers to share their thoughts and ideas on ways they can also become proactive in similar efforts. After the discussion, distribute pledge sheets that allow each reader an opportunity to reflect and then list the efforts that they personally want to commit to in order to take better care of our planet.

If your event location has outdoor resources that can be served, consider taking the party outside to do a community clean up, being sure to provide gloves and bags for everyone. To make it even more fun, have readers work in teams and offer a prize for the group that collects the most trash or recyclable materials.



## MONSTER MATCH-UP

Thanks to inspiration from the many spooky creatures found in Mexican folklore, the Paola Santiago novels have so much spookiness to share. Luckily, you don't have to personally visit the Rift to get introduced to these monsters, but see if you can match the monster with their description.

### LA MANO PACHONA

Although Paola is not wrong to think of a torta sandwich when she first hears mention of this word (“You know you really want-a/Torta ahogadaaaa. . .”), the Spanish word for “drowned” describes a ghostly creature with a physical form, drained of life, barely sentient. Just think of it, you're having a leisurely stroll on the riverbank, looking up at the stars, when a husk of a child crawls out of the water and pulls you into its murky depths. Creepy, right?

### LECHUZA

So say you were a typical villager of local legend, struggling to make ends meet. And say you got ruined financially by a greedy merchant who gave you a loan with a terrible interest rate. Maybe you'd want to think bad thoughts, entertain curses, that sort of thing? You might think twice in the off chance that merchant's DISEMBODIED HAND crawls out of the grave, looking like the biggest hairiest spider you've ever seen, except it's worse than a spider. It's a demon hand!

### AHOGADA

Who wants to cross paths with a red-eyed, demonic lizard-dog with vampiric tendencies? Okay, fine, they mainly drain the blood of goats, but should we really trust them to stop there?

### CHUPACABRA

These shape-shifting witches did not come to make friends. What they did come with are deafening screeches that summon swarms of bats. As if a trio of bird people with leathery gray skin sagging off their skeletal bodies weren't enough to make you beg for mercy. . . .