

## **Unit Topic**

### **Celebrating Life Beyond Death: Mexico's Day of the Dead**

*Holly Bryk*

We all have a story to tell, and it is our hope that at least some part of our individual stories will live on when we are gone. I plan on exploring with my seventh grade students Hispanic beliefs around death and dealing with loss using authentic literature in the target language, Spanish. Students will investigate the celebration of Dia De Los Muertos in Mexico, the United States, and other Spanish-speaking countries. My plan is to use authentic Spanish texts and realia to present students with opportunities to immerse themselves in the Hispanic celebration of Día de los Muertos. It is my hope to incorporate authentic target language literature into this unit so that students can experience Día de los Muertos through the personal experiences of native speakers as told in their native tongue. As a culminating activity, each student will create an ofrenda (altar) honoring a loved one whom they have lost. In order to complete the ofrenda, the student will need to research the honoree by interviewing family members and friends for information, representations, and offerings to be included. Students' ofrendas will be included in gallery walk for the larger school community.