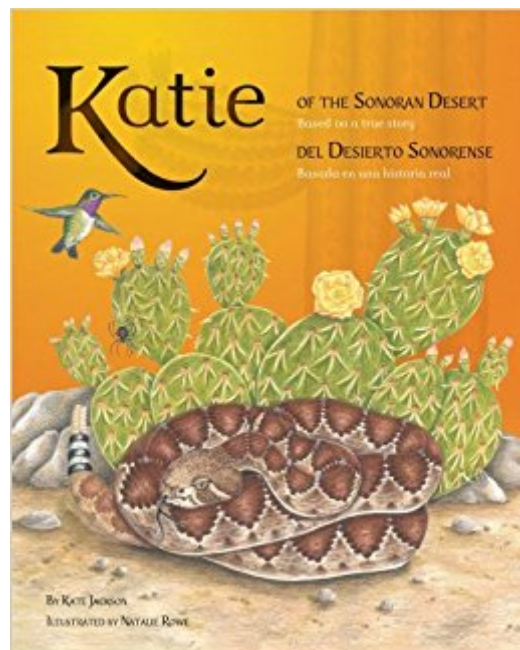


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# Katie Of The Sonoran Desert: Based On A True Story (English And Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2010 IPPY Silver Medal in Multicultural Non-Fiction, and 2010 Moonbeam Children's Book Gold Medal. This is the true story of Katie, a meter-long western diamondback rattlesnake, and her adventures as she struggles to make a life for herself in the harsh Sonoran Desert. We re with Katie, sharing in her determination as she hunts for the food she needs to stay alive, her terror when attacked by vicious predators, and her care and devotion to the litter of babies she gives birth to. Although the story is told from Katie s point of view, the reason we know so much about her life is because of the work of scientists, who also appear in the story, using the latest technology to learn more about the private lives of snakes, and ultimately facing a terrible decision when Katie s life is in danger. This is the perfect read for any child who wonders what it might be like to be a rattlesnake, as well as for older children who want to know more about what it s like to be a biologist and what the science of studying reptiles and amphibians (herpetology) is all about. Katie del Desierto Sonorense. Basado en una historia real. Esta es la historia verdadera de Katie, una vÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â-bora cascabel de diamantes y sus aventuras luchando para hacer una vida para sÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â- misma en el riguroso Desierto Sonorense. Estamos con Katie, participando de su determinaciÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â n cuando caza la comida que necesita para vivir, en su terror cuando es atacada por depredadores feroces y en su cuidado y devociÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â n a la camada de bebÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Âs que pareÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â . Aunque la historia se cuenta desde el punto de vista de Katie, la razÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â n por la que sabemos tanto sobre su vida es gracias al trabajo de los cientÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â-ficos, que tambiÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Ân aparecen en la historia, quienes usan la ÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Âltima tecnologÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â-a para aprender mÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Âs sobre la vida privada de las vÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â-boras y al final se tienen que enfrentar a una decisiÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â terrible cuando la vida de Katie estÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Âi en peligro. Esta es la lectura perfecta para un niÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â o que se pregunta lo que se siente ser una vÃfÆ'&#x83;Ãfâ &#x83;ÃfÆ'&#x82;Ãfâ Ã Â-bora,

as *Así como para*  
ni *ni los*  
m *mis grandes que quieren saber*  
m *mis sobre lo que significa ser*  
bi *biológico y de que se trata la ciencia del estudio de*  
los reptiles y anfibios (herpetología *herpetología*).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a stunningly wonderful book, like nothing I've ever seen! Katie of the Sonoran Desert presents first-rate snake biology as an engaging story of scientific sleuthing, done by folks with a passion for everything within this gorgeous landscape; the illustrations are distinguished by their attention to detail as well as a genuine feeling for the animals. Any reader will be the richer. --Harry Greene, PhD, Cornell University. Author of *Snakes: the Evolution of Mystery in Nature*

Written by herpetologist Kate Jackson, this new book is based on a true story about a western diamond rattlesnake that Jackson tagged. It's written in third person from the snake's point of view. You see the snake get tagged, attacked by a couple of predators, have babies and protect them, and get rescued. The story is good, but the detailed illustrations by Natalie Rowe are simply breathtaking and make this book a candidate for a classic. The illustrations aid empathy for snakes as much, if not more, than the text. The pencil drawings are wonderfully intricate and many animals and plants are shown. The bilingual aspect is handled perfectly. Rather than have the story appear

in one language and then the other, the English and Spanish text are adjacent. Thus a book that provides empathy for a snake is also a language-learning tool for English-speaking people learning Spanish and for Spanish-speaking people learning English. The story is only half of the book. The second half is full of information about the animals and plants depicted in the book, studying herps, what herpetologists do, tips on how to become a herpetologist, herpetological techniques, and so on. A glossary defines words shown in bold in the story. The stunning illustrations are used throughout the book. While it's a children's book, it's not meant for the wee ones. The story is told in large paragraphs of text using large type. I estimate the book to be appropriate for mid or upper elementary school children. But even if the text is too much for your kids, they will certainly love the illustrations.

Great book for children of all ages.

Good story. I've met the author through my son. It is good for children to be more familiar with nature's ways.

Katie of the Sonoran Desert is a must have book for all ages. The story is beautifully written by Kate Jackson and gorgeously illustrated by Natalie Rowe. This is no ordinary book for children. Kate Jackson's story and Natalie Rowe's art brought Katie to life in my mind. Everyone should read this book.

How do you make a cheery children's story about a rattlesnake? You get a famed herpetologist like Kate Jackson (NOT the actress) to describe a year in the life of the rattlesnake and include herself as a character in the book. You pick a scenic location like the Sonoran desert, and you make sure you include other animals native to the region. You include a postscript with a short description of the animals and plants featured in the story. You get a talented illustrator like Natalie Rowe to depict the scene. You translate the story so that the pages alternate between English and Spanish. Then, you sit back while readers get absorbed into the tale. **RATING: 5 stars.**

En Espanol, tambien! This large, hard cover, very colorful, nicely illustrated 2009 book is not just for children, but for anyone who wants to learn more about snakes and the creatures and plant-life in the Sonora Desert. It is actually based on a true story, as Herpetologists (scientists who study reptiles and amphibians) provide info based on their studies of snakes and other desert life. It is also

a sizable book, big enough to provide lots of picture coverage and about 72 pages long. The book includes a full page map of the lower Southwest of North America (U.S. and Mexico/Baja California). The Sonora Desert begins in the southernmost sections of California and Arizona and extends into Mexico. The real Katie lives in the Sonora Desert of Arizona. Katie is a meter long (almost 3 feet) Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. She is "captured" by Herpetologists who want to study her. They implant a tiny radio transmitter in her, and carefully release her back into the wild. The story is told from Katie's viewpoint as she hunts for food, fights off attack by predators, and cares for her litter. We learn about her enemy, the badger. Although her venom can kill him, it takes time to take affect as he slices with his dangerously sharp claws. The actual story is 43 pages, followed by a 10-page explanation of animals and plants of the Sonoran Desert, with pictures. We learn about the:

- \* California Kingsnake
- \* Western Diamondback Rattlesnake
- \* Badger
- \* Coyote
- \* Kangaroo Rat
- \* Pocket Mouse
- \* Arizona Blond Tarantula (gentle giant of spiders)
- \* Black Widow Spider (often kills male after mating)(guys--see how lucky you are to not be a spider)
- \* Cactus Long-Horned Beetle
- \* White-line Sphinx Moth
- \* Hummingbird
- \* Barrel Cactus
- \* Cholla Cactus
- \* Desert Hackberry
- \* Ocotillo
- \* Prickly Pears(have tasted this in San Diego at cousin's house)
- \* Saguaro

You will likely recognize some of the cacti from having them, or a similar variety, as a houseplant. There are 10 pages about Herpetology (the science) and Herpetologists, (the people) who study creatures such as snakes, toads, lizards, scorpions, and tarantulas. There are lots of interesting facts about the desert critters and plant life. The book also explains what fields of study are necessary to become a Herpetologist, where one might find work, techniques used (tagging, marking, radio-tracking), how to find and catch desert critters, and websites to find additional information. There is a 6 page glossary of words used throughout the text, such as endotherms, burrow, herp). There are 2 pages about the author. The book ends with a full page, color map of the southwestern section of North America. (Now I finally know where Cabo San Lucas is.) For my both my Spanish-speaking friends, who want to practice their English, and my English-speaking friends, who want to practice their Spanish, this book provides the full story in dual-language, page-by-page translation. As you travel through the desert with Katie, you do so in both languages. When I read this book, I immediately thought of a friend from El Salvador, who speaks little English. He and his wife have a one-year old daughter and they will be teaching her both languages. A book like this will be very beneficial to them. Again, an exceptional book--very educational and colorful--It is probably for an 11 year old and up, but can certainly be read to someone younger. It was very interesting to me, and I am a wee bit older than 11 :-).

Katie of the Sonoran Desert (Katie del Desierto Sonorense) is just a wonderful book. Katie is a western diamondback rattlesnake, and this book tells an exciting and touching true story of her life in the desert. The book is written in English and Spanish and can be used as an interesting learning tool. I can read aloud in English, then practice my Spanish pronunciation and vocabulary, and then return to English to figure out what I missed. The story and information is interesting enough to keep me coming back to practice. Halfway through the book, the story ends and a presentation of information in both languages including brief but fascinating descriptions of all the animals and plants contained in Katie's story, as well as the beauty and harshness of the desert environment. Finally, there is a nice introduction to the study of herpetology. This book is well worth reading and re-reading, not only by young people learning to read and by good readers who enjoy an interesting story with fascinating illustrations, but also by English-speaking fogies like me who can use this book as a quick dip into a comprehensible and genuine Spanish language book. Highly recommended!

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