

CHAPTER 1

The Return

Having an ecologist for a mother was great, thought Nate. He and Nell never knew where they would travel next. But this was a real surprise.

Their mother told them they were going to Mexico. “Maria asked me to a meeting. It’s in a small village. She says it’s important,” she said.

“Who’s Maria, Mom?” Nate asked.

“Maria was one of my students. Now she works for the Mexican Tourism office,” she said.

Mom went on. “You’ll miss a little school. But it’s worth it to see the return,” she said.

“What return?” Nell asked.

Mom grinned. “Wait and see,” she said.

The Kidds flew to Mexico City. Then they took a bus to the village. It was high in the mountains. They got off the bus at the town square.

Nate could see that the village was having a festival. The park in the center was filled with people. A sign hung above them.

Both Nate and Nell were studying Spanish at school. So they could read it.

“The Day of the Dead,” Nate read.

“Is that a holiday?” Nell asked.