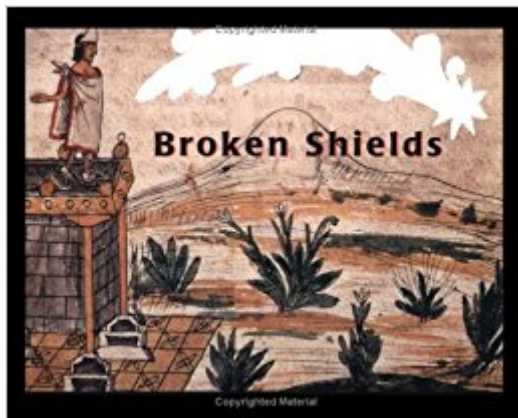


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# Broken Shields (Stella)



## Synopsis

A companion volume to "What the Aztecs Told Me, Broken Shields" tells the tragic tale of the conquest of Montezuma and the destruction of the Aztec empire by Hernan Cortes. It is written in the first person in the form of a lament, a compelling way to relate this history to children.

## Book Information

Series: Stella

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (August 12, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0888993048

ISBN-13: 978-0888993045

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #1,169,170 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Mexico](#) #615 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8?This unusual book relates the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs, using centuries old words and illustrations. The text is adapted from Friar de Sahagun's 16th-century history of New Spain. In simple, elegant language, it tells how the Spaniards appeared one year "where the sky joins the sea." The straightforward narrative, derived from accounts of Aztec witnesses, has a subtly lamenting tone, effectively set off by blunt descriptions of tragic events. The illustrations are drawn from another historical volume, presumably painted by natives, and inventively adapted for this book. One key figure or object in each painting is moved off to the side, leaving a blank white silhouette where it was originally placed. This technique accentuates certain images and adds to the striking drama of the events. Despite the brevity of the text, the words are clear enough to convey the general progression of events. Still, readers who are already familiar with the history will benefit most from this book. Sally Mathews's *The Sad Night* (Clarion, 1994), also in a picture-book format, offers more historical background, while *Broken Shields* conveys the firsthand immediacy of the

events more emotionally. Thus, this new title complements the older one and makes a valuable, uniquely insightful resource for anyone studying the Aztecs or New World exploration. ?Steven Engelfried, West Linn Public Library, ORCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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