

cemetery. Families gather around the graves with food and music. They spend the night eating and dancing. People dress up as skeletons. They paint their faces to look like skulls. Often they wear shells or other noisemakers to wake up the dead.

At school, students write short, humorous poems called *calaveritas*. The poems are meant to tease friends and family by imagining funny ways they might die.

In recent years, the Day of the Dead has

made it to the United States. Major celebrations happen in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Antonio, and other cities. That means you might meet a few skeletons on the street this November. If you do, don't be scared. They're just welcoming back the dead. •



PILES OF PRESENTS

On the Day of the Dead, people in Mexico honor dead relatives with altars full of candles and food.



ACTION ACTIVITY

How is the Day of the Dead celebrated?

Write a paragraph to answer this question.

Get started by using facts from the article to finish the sentences below.

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Topic
Sentence

On the Day of the Dead, people do many things to remember

The main idea of your paragraph: What is the purpose of the holiday?

Detail 1

At home, people

What do people build in their homes, and why?

Detail 2

In cemeteries, families

How is the holiday celebrated in cemeteries?

Detail 3

At school, students write *calaveritas*, which are

What are *calaveritas*? What is their purpose?

Conclusion

The holiday might sound scary, but it's really a reminder that

What important idea about death do people keep in mind on this holiday?

Remember
to indent
the first
sentence!

