

Extension Activities

1. **In Reality.** Research the eviction laws in your state. Find demographic information about people who get evicted, and find out what they can do if they need help. Share your findings with your group, and propose something helpful you could do. Alternatively, consider Papa C's struggle with Social Security and the health care system. Research proposals that would make it easier for people to get medical coverage. Share what you learn with your reading group, and suggest ways that you can convey your views to politicians.
2. **Food for Thought.** How does food, especially Mexican food, play a significant role in *Soul Enchilada*? Find a recipe for one of the dishes featured in the book, such as *carne picada*, *empanadas*, *horchata*, or *huevos rancheros*. Prepare the dish and share it with your reading group.
3. **Day of the Dead.** Pesto makes a *papel picado* for Bug, and then he and his mother take her to a celebration for Día de los Muertos. What do people celebrate on the Day of the Dead? How do they remember their loved ones? Write about your findings, or make an *ofrenda* for someone you know who has passed away.
4. **Speak of the Devil.** Choose a novel, short story, poem, play, movie, song, or other work of art that's based on someone's deal with the devil. Compare and contrast the demons and devils you find there with David Macinnis Gill's portrayal of Beals and Scratch in *Soul Enchilada*. Possible selections include:
 - George Abbott, Douglass Wallop, Richard Adler, and Jerry Ross's musical *Damn Yankees* (or Stanley Donen's film)
 - Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale "The Little Mermaid" (or the Walt Disney film)
 - The Charlie Daniels Band's song "The Devil Went Down to Georgia"
 - Goethe's play *Faust*
 - Washington Irving's short story "The Devil and Tom Walker"
 - Christopher Marlowe's play *Doctor Faustus*
 - John Updike's novel *The Witches of Eastwick* (or George Miller's film)
 - Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*



Photo by Caroline Gill

About the Author

David Macinnis Gill is an associate professor of English education at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, specializing in young adult literature. He is a past president of ALAN, the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents affiliated with NCTE, and *Soul Enchilada* marks his debut as a novelist. He lives with his family in Wilmington, North Carolina. Visit him online at www.davidmacinnisgill.com.



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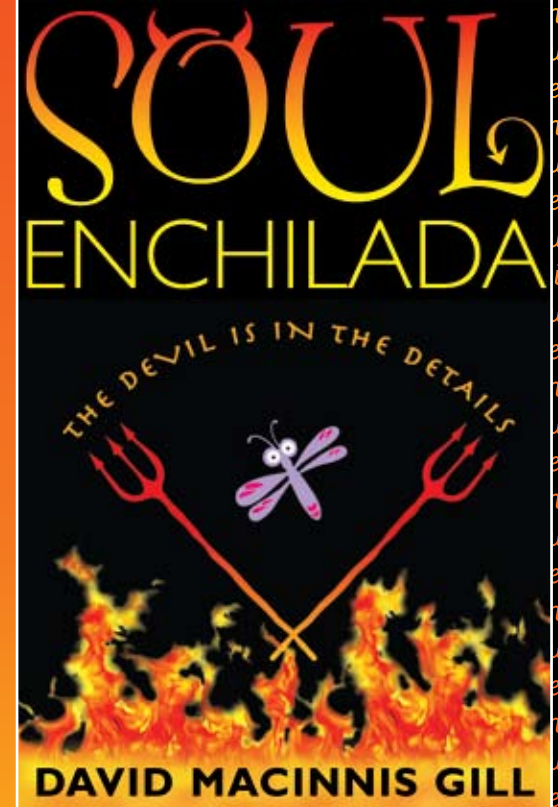
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Reading Group Guide



SOUL
ENCHILADA
By David Macinnis Gill

