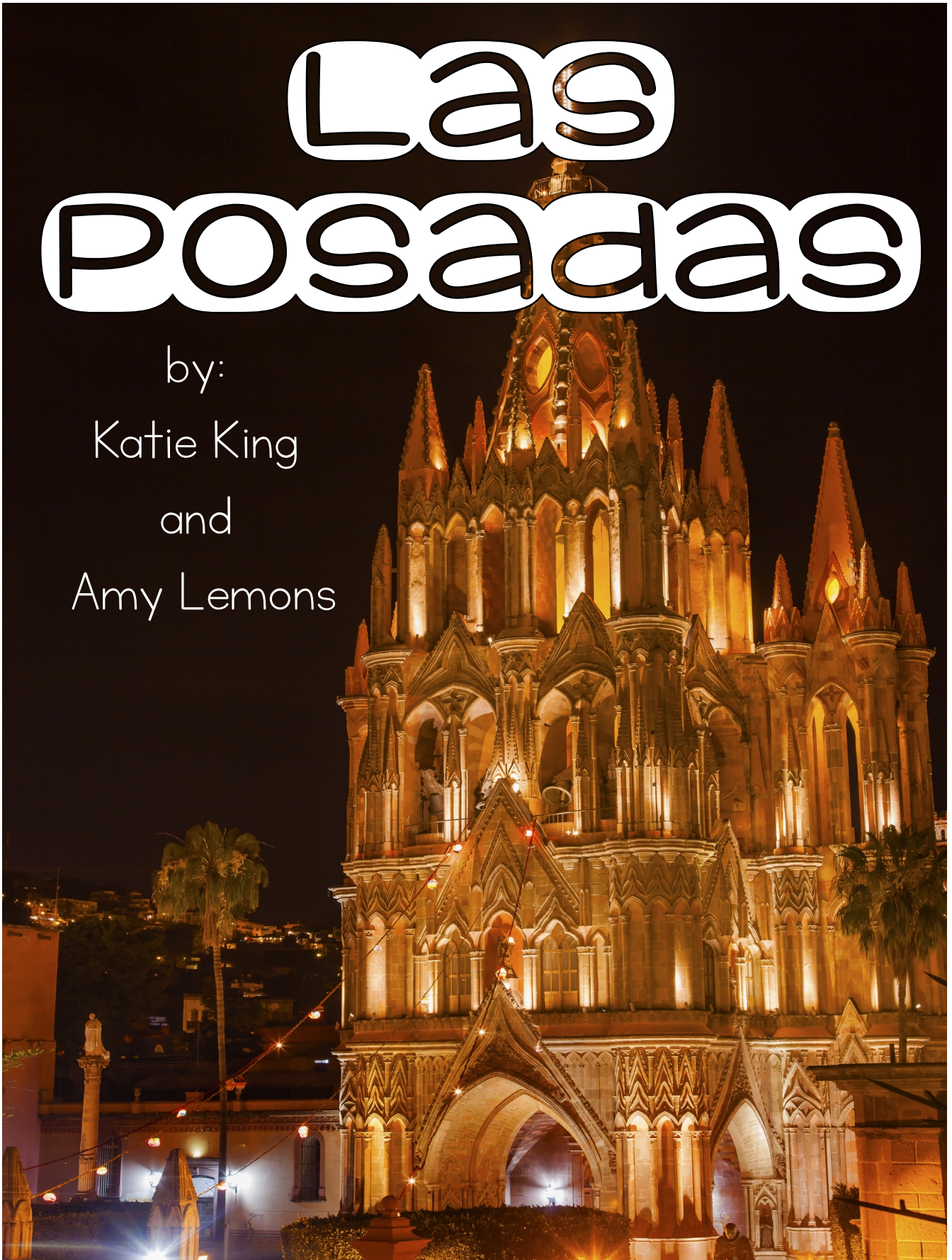


Las Posadas

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Las Posadas

Las Posadas is a celebration in Mexico. It is nine days long. It starts on December 16th and ends on Christmas Day which is December 25th. The word "posadas" means "inn" or as many Americans would say "hotel."



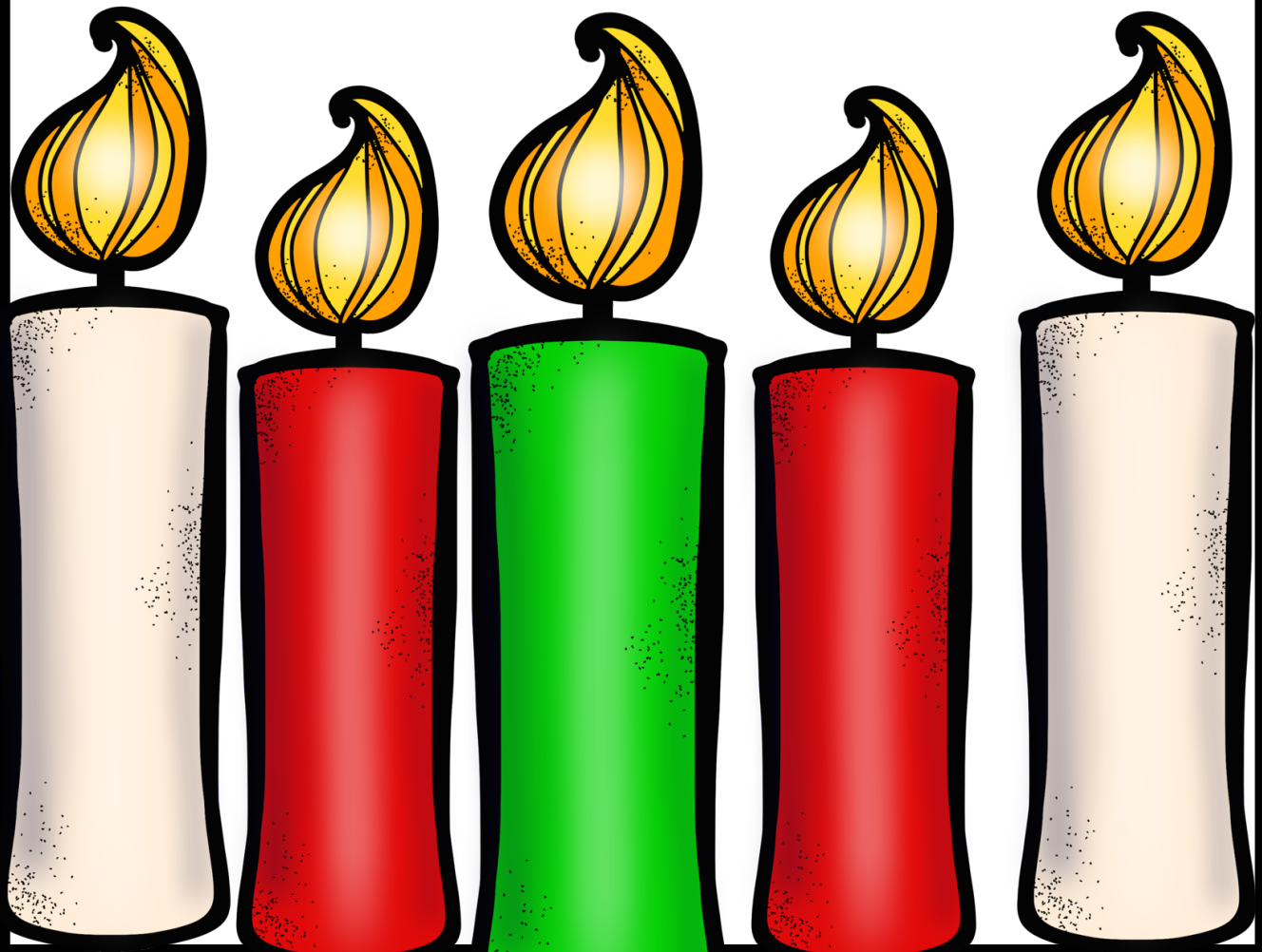
Las Posadas

This festival celebrates the story of Mary and Joseph searching for an inn where Jesus would be born. People imitate this by pretending to do the same and knocking on people's doors.



Las Posadas

Children line up to walk through the streets. They follow another child dressed as an angel. The kids usually wear gold and silver. They also carry candles to light the way since it is nighttime. Crowds line the street to watch.



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There is lots of singing and food throughout the tradition. After the procession, everyone goes to church. And then there are piñatas for the kids to break open! The piñatas usually are in the shape of a star or a donkey.



Las Posadas

Just as you read in *The Legend of the Poinsettia*, this beautiful red flower is very important to many Mexican people because the people believe the poinsettia was part of a Christmas miracle. Many people also point out that the poinsettia happens to look like a star too!

