

Latinx Creators

Picture Books

Ada, Alma Flor. *Sand and Song: The ABCS of the River* (World Languages: Spanish). Poems celebrating the beauty found in the countryside, from buzzing bugs to a rushing river

Alessandri, Alexandra. *Isabel and Her Colores Go to School* (World Languages: Spanish). English just feels wrong to Isabel. She prefers her native Spanish. Her first day at a new school is uncomfortable, until she employs her crayons and discovers there's more than one way to communicate with new friends. Also by Alexandra Alessandri: *Feliz New Year, Ava Gabriela!*

Alvarez, Julia. *Already a Butterfly: A Meditation Story*. A too busy butterfly who spends her day hurrying and worrying finds her own "quiet place" after learning about meditation and mindfulness from a flower.

Aponte, Carlos. *Across the Bay**. Carlitos lives in a happy home with his mother, his abuela, and Coco the cat, but the call of the capital city pulls Carlitos across the bay in search of his father.

Arena, Jen. *Salsa Lullaby*. Parents put their young daughter to sleep with the help of some music and dancing. Also by Jen Arena: *Marta! Big & Small*.

Azúa Kramer, Jackie. *I Wish You Knew*. After Estrella's father is deported because he is an illegal immigrant, her teacher at school invites her and the other students to share the things they wished their teacher knew about their life at home.

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. *We Laugh Alike: A Story That's Part English, Part Spanish, and a Whole Lot of Fun*. Six children are at the park, one group speaks only English and the other only Spanish, but soon they learn to communicate through playing, dancing, and singing.

Betancourt-Perez, Jessica. *A Thousand White Butterflies*. Newly arrived from Colombia, Isabella's first day of school in the United States is cancelled because of snow and when Isabella notices a girl playing outside she makes a new friend, despite the language barrier.

Bowles, David. *My Two Border Towns**. The story of a father and son's weekend ritual, a trip over the U.S.-Mexico border, including a meal at their favorite restaurant, a visit with Tio Mateo and a cold treat from the paletero. On their final and most important stop, they check in with friends seeking asylum and drop off much-needed supplies.

Brown, Monica. *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match** (series). Marisol McDonald, a biracial, nonconformist, soccer-playing pirate-princess with brown skin and red hair, celebrates her uniqueness. Also by Monica Brown: *Clara and the Curandera; Maya's Blanket = La manta de Maya; and Waiting for the BibliBurro*.

Buitrago, Jairo. *Wounded Falcons*. Adrián is always in trouble, at school and at home. When he finds a wounded bird and nurses it back to health, others finally get to see who Adrián truly is. Also by Jairo Buitrago: *Jimmy the Greatest!; On the Other Side of the Garden; Two White Rabbits; and Walk with Me*.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. *The Cot in the Living Room*. A young Dominican American girl in New York City moves from jealousy to empathy as her parents babysit children whose families work the overnight shift.

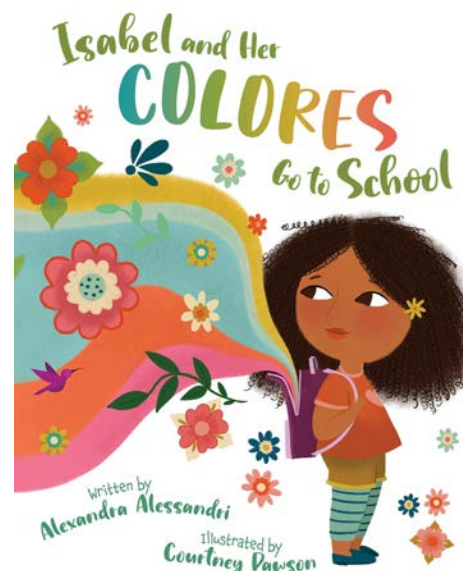
Byrd, Lee Merrill. *Birdie's beauty parlor = El salon de belleza de Birdy*. Birdie provides instructions on how to give her tired grandma a makeover, complete with facial hair removal, cosmetics application, massage, and accessorizing.

Campoy, F. Isabel. *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*. Mira lives in a gray and hopeless urban community until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and togetherness to Mira and her neighbors.

Chansky, Ricia Anne. *Maxy Survives the Hurricane = Maxy sobrevive el huracán* (World Languages: Spanish). Maxy the dog and his family survive Hurricane María, but Maxy becomes terrified of storms.

de la Peña, Matt. *Milo Imagines the World**. While Milo and his sister travel to a detention center to visit their incarcerated mother, he observes strangers on the subway and draws what he imagines their lives to be. Also by Matt de la Peña: *Carmela Full of Wishes*.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *Rita and Ralph's Rotten Day*. Rita and Ralph live on neighboring hills and they are best friends, until a silly accident while goofing around ends up with both of them angry and unhappy—and they both need to find a way to heal the break in their relationship. Also by Carmen Agra Deedy: *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!*



Denise, Anika. *Starring Carmen!* (series). Singer, dancer, and actress Carmen puts on a show every night for her parents, who would like Carmen to share the stage with her biggest fan, her little brother Eduardo.

Díaz, Junot. *Islandborn**. Lola was just a baby when her family left the Island, so when she has to draw it for a school, she asks her family, friends, and neighbors about their memories and comes up with a new way of understanding her heritage.

Diaz, Lucky. *Paletero Man*. Follow along with our narrator as he passes through his busy neighborhood in search of the Paletero Man.

Dominguez, Angela. *I Love You, Baby Burrrito*. ¡Hola, bebé! Mi hermosa, my beautiful! It's time to swaddle you—tucking in each piernita, each bracito . . . everything except your sweet carita. Also by Angela Dominguez: *How do you say? ¿Cómo se dice?; How are You? ¿Cómo Estás?; and María Had a Little Llama = María tenía una llamita*.

Elya, Susan Middleton. *The Three Billy Goat Buenos*. A rhyming twist on the classic tale in which the goats help fix what is making the troll so grumpy in order to cross the bridge. Also by Susan Middleton Elya: *Little Raja Riding Hood; La Princesa and the Pea; La Madre Goose = Nursery Rhymes for Niños; and Maya Papaya and Her Amigos Play Dress-up*.

* This title is also available in Spanish in the Kids World Languages section.



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Picture Books, cont.

Engle, Margarita. *A Song of Frutas**. While visiting her abuelo in Cuba, a young girl helps him sell frutas, singing the name of each fruit as they walk, and after she returns to the United States, they exchange letters made of abrazos—hugs. Also by Margarita Engle: *All the Way to Havana*; and *The Drum Dream Girl*.

Esperanza, Charles George. *Boogie Boogie, Y'all*. A celebration of the lively, colorful and rich culture of the Boogie Down Bronx, inviting readers to an epic block party!

Garza, Cynthia Leonor. *Lucia the Luchadora* (series). Lucia comes from a family of luchadoras, the bold women of the Mexican lucha libre tradition, and zips through the playground in her cape and mask, fighting for justice.

Gómez, Blanca. *Bird House**. A little girl and her abuela tend to an injured bird they find in the snow, allowing it to fly around the living room until it is ready to be released.

Gonzales, Mark. *Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter*. A lyrical celebration of multiculturalism as a parent shares with a child the value of their heritage and why it should be a source of pride, even when others disagree.

Gonzalez, Raúl the Third. *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market** (series). Little Lobo, a Mexican American, and his dog Bernabe deliver supplies to vendors at the Mercado, a busy border town market.

González, Xelena. *All Around Us**. Finding circles everywhere, a grandfather and his granddaughter meditate on the cycles of life and nature.

Hernandez-Linares, Leticia. *Alejandria Fights Back! / La lucha de Alejandria!* For nine-year-old Alejandria, home isn't just the apartment she shares with Mami and her abuela, Tita, but rather the whole neighborhood. But lately the city has been changing, and many people in el barrio are leaving because they can no longer afford their homes.

Herrera, Juan Felipe. *Imagine**. When he was very young, Juan Felipe Herrera picked flowers and moved often with his migrant family. He went to school, learned to read and write in English and grew up to become the United States Poet Laureate.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *El Cucuy is Scared, Too!* Ramón is worried about his first day at a new school, but it helps to remind El Cucuy, the monster who lives in his cactus pot, of how brave and strong they both are.

Kyle, Tracey. *Pepe and the Parade: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage*. Pepe, who is Mexican American, enjoys participating in a festival celebrating his heritage and that of his family and friends, who are from Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and other countries. Also by Tracey Kyle: *Food Fight Fiesta: A Tale of La Tomatina*; and *Gazpacho for Nacho*.

Lawler, Janet. *Kindergarten Hat*. Carlos Abredo loves building forts, playing soccer, and gardening but he does not want to start kindergarten, until his new teacher reaches out to make him feel welcome.

Llanos, Mariana. *Run, Little Chaski! An Inka Trail Adventure**. Little Chaski has a big job: he is the Inka King's newest royal messenger. But on his first day things quickly start to go awry. Will Little Chaski be able to deliver the royal message on time? Also by Mariana Llanos: *Luca's Bridge = El puente de Luca*.

López, Rafael. *We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands*. A celebration of unity, diversity, and friendships all around the world. Sing along with joy, love, and peace!

Martínez, Ernesto Javier. *When We Love Someone, We Sing to Them = Cuando amamos cantamos* (World Languages: Spanish). The story of a young boy who asks his father if there is a song for a boy who loves a boy, in a reclamation of the Mexican serenata tradition.

Martinez-Neal, Juana. *Zonia's Rain Forest**. Enjoying days spent with animal friends near her home in the Amazon, young Zonia wonders what to do on a day when the rainforest calls out to her for help. Also by Juana Martinez-Neal: *Alma and How She Got Her Name*.

Medina, Meg. *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away**. Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend. They do everything together and even live across the street from each other. But today Evelyn moves away. Now the girls play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because they know that their friendship will always be special. Also by Meg Medina: *Mango, Abuela, and Me*.

Méndez, Yamile Saied. *What Will You Be?** What will you be when you grow up? A young girl dreams about all the endless possibilities, sparking a sense of wonder, curiosity, and growth. With her abuela's loving guidance, she learns her potential is limitless. Also by Yamile Saied Méndez: *Where are You From?*

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Meza, Estelí. *Finding Home*. When Conejo's house blows away in a storm, his friends and neighbors take turns helping him look for it. Though they do not find his house, they each send him on his way with good cheer and small gifts.

Mora, Pat. *My Singing Nana* (Topics to Talk About). Billy's beloved Nana's memory is failing but they are always amigos, so when disaster strikes the day of the family's big show, Billy finds a way he and Nana can save the day. Also by Pat Mora: *Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day = Celebramos El día de los niños/El día de los libros: A Bilingual Picture Book*; and *Book Joy, Word Joy*.

Morales, Areli. *Areli is a Dreamer: A True Story**. Areli Morales tells her own powerful and vibrant immigration story of moving from a quiet town in Mexico to the bustling and noisy metropolis of New York City.

Morales, Yuyi. *Bright Star**. A fawn makes her way through a border landscape teaming with flora and fauna native to the region. When she comes across an insurmountable barrier, a gentle but empowering voice encourages her to face her fears. Also by Yuyi Morales: *Dreamers; Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book; Niño Wrestles the World* (series); and *Viva Frida*.

Otheguy, Emma. *A Sled for Gabo**. Gabo, shy with other children and having no sled or winter clothing, yearns to go sledding and his neighbor's granddaughter, Isa, helps him find a way.

Paul, Baptiste. *To Carnival!: A Celebration in Saint Lucia**. The sights, sounds and tastes of vibrant Saint Lucia come to life in this cumulative tale of a girl's journey to Carnival. Also by Baptiste Paul: *Peace*; and *The Field*.

Perez, Nomar. *Coquí in the City**. When Miguel and his parents move from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland, Miguel misses their home, his grandparents, and his pet frog, Coquí, but he soon realizes that New York City has more in common with back home than he originally thought.

Perkins, Mitali. *Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border*. When Maria, Juan, and their mother go to the border between California and Mexico to visit their grandmother at Christmas, Maria must devise a way to get a gift over the fence.

Quintero, Isabel. *My Papi Has a Motorcycle**. When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. But as the sun sets behind Daisy Ramona and her papi, she knows that the love she feels will always be there.

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Ramos, NoNieqa. *Your Mama*. A sweet twist on the age-old "yo mama" joke, celebrating fierce moms everywhere. Yo' mama so sweet, she could be a bakery. She dresses so fine, she could have a clothing line. And, even when you mess up, she's so forgiving, she lets you keep on living!

Ringler, Matt. *Stroller Coaster*. A quick-thinking father thwarts his daughter's impending tantrum when he transforms an everyday walk outside into an exciting ride through the neighborhood.

Sotomayor, Sonia. *Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*. Sonia and her friends plant a garden, and each one contributes in his or her own special way, in a book that celebrates our many differences.

Toledo, Eymard. *The Best Tailor in Pinbauê*. Uncle Flores is the best tailor in the town of Pinbauê in Brazil, but misses making costumes for Carnival. His nephew comes up with an ingenious idea to get his uncle back to work.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes**. The cherished Mexican legend of two majestic volcanoes—Popocatepetl and Iztaccíhuatl—which stand overlooking Mexico City. Izta was the most beautiful princess in the land and fell in love with Popoca, a brave warrior who fought in her father's army—and a man who did not offer her riches but a promise to stay by her side forever. Also by Duncan Tonatiuh: *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*; and *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale*.

Velasquez, Eric. *Octopus Stew**. Ramsey dons his superhero cape to rescue Grandma from the huge octopus she is trying to cook—or is he simply telling a story? Also by Eric Velasquez: *Grandma's Gift*; and *Grandma's Records*.

Williams, Karen Lynn. *Facing Fear*. Enrique can't believe his father won't let him travel to his team's big soccer tournament. Papi says going across the checkpoint is too risky. Even though Enrique is a U.S. citizen, the rest of the family isn't.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Day You Begin**. Other students laugh when Rigoberto, an immigrant from Venezuela, introduces himself but later, he meets Angelina and discovers that he is not the only one who feels like an outsider.

Young, Jessica. *I'll Meet You In Your Dreams*. A child and parent journey through life together—always remembering that even if the other is far away they can meet in their dream.

2021 Pura Belpré Book Awards



The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latinx writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latinx cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

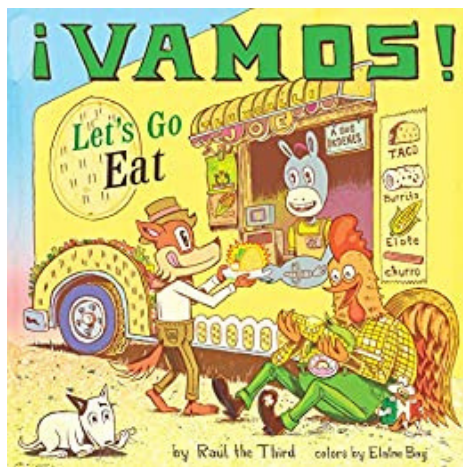
The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. As a children's librarian, storyteller, and author, she enriched the lives of Puerto Rican children in the U.S.A. through her pioneering work of preserving and disseminating Puerto Rican folklore. The award is now given annually. It was given as a biennial award from 1996 through 2008. Author awards for Young Adult materials were added in 2021.

2021 Winner for Illustration

¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat by Raúl Gonzalez (Raúl the Third)

2021 Honor Book for Illustration

Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello Illustrated by Elisa Chavarri, written by Monica Brown.



Past Pura Belpré Book Award Winners for Illustration

1996: *Chato's Kitchen**, illustrated by Susan Guevara, written by Gary Soto

1998: *Snapshots from the Wedding*, illustrated by Stephanie Garcia, written by Gary Soto

2000: *Magic Windows* by Carmen Lomas Garza

2002: *Chato and the Party Animals**, illustrated by Susan Guevara, written by Gary Soto

2004: *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book* by Yuyi Morales

2006: *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*, illustrated by Raul Colón, written by Pat Mora

2008: *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*, illustrated by Yuyi Morales, written by Marisa Montes

2009: *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book* by Yuyi Morales

2010: *Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day**, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Pat Mora

2011: *Grandma's Gift* by Eric Velasquez

2012: *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* by Duncan Tonatiuh

2013: *Martín de Porres: The Rose in the Desert*, illustrated by David Diaz, written by Gary D. Schmidt

2014: *Niño Wrestles the World** by Yuyi Morales

2015: *Viva Frida** by Yuyi Morales

2016: *Drum Dream Girl*, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle

2017: *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*, illustrated by Raúl Gonzalez, written by Cathy Camper

2018: *La Princesa and the Pea**, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal, written by Susan Middleton Elya

2019: *Dreamers** by Yuyi Morales

2020: *Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln**, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle

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