

Latine Creators

Fiction and Graphic Novels

Easy Reader Books

McDonald, Kirsten and Fatima Anaya. *Carlos and Carmen* (Level 2 series).

Medina, Juana. *Elena Rides** (Level 1).

Mora, Julissa. *Baking with Mi Abuelita* (Level 2).

Otheguy, Emma. *Reina Ramos** (Level 2 series).

Raúl the Third. *El Toro & Friends* (Level 1 series).

Rose, Susan and Silvia López. *José and El Perro* (Level 2).

Salazar, Alicia. *Camila the Star* (Level 2 series).

Early Chapter Books

Bowles, David. *13th Street: Battle of the Bad-Breath Bats* (series). Cousins Malia, Ivan, and Dante are visiting their aunt for the summer, but stumble on a strange world filled with dangerous beasts!

Heuer, Lourdes. *Esme's Birthday Conga Line*. Esme plans her own birthday party with the help of the eclectic neighbors who reside in her building.

Jennings, Terry Catasús. *Definitely Dominguita: Knight of the Cape* (series). Dominguita loves reading the books in Spanish that Abuela gave her. She's inspired by Don Quixote to become a knight and do good deeds!

Novales, Keka. *Bad Luck Lola* (series). When Lola cracks a mirror, she is not worried at first, but when one unlucky thing after another happens, Lola slowly becomes convinced she is cursed.

Torres, Jennifer. *Catalina Incognita* (series). Eight-year-old Catalina Castañeda uses a sewing kit to turn ordinary clothing into a magical disguise, helping her to uncover a thief at the library.



Fiction

Acevedo, Chantel. *The Curse on Spectacle Key*. Frank Fernandez's family is moving into a lighthouse to renovate it, but strange things keep happening. Is the island cursed? Also by Chantel Acevedo: *Muse Squad: The Cassandra Curse* (series).

Alegre, Reina Luz. *The Dream Weaver*. Twelve-year-old Zoey navigates the tricky waters of friendship and family while searching for a way to save her grandfather's bowling alley from closing.

Alessandri, Alexandra. *The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejía*. To save their father's life, a brother and sister must journey across a land full of magical beings from Colombian folklore and find the most powerful and dangerous of them all--the Madremonte.

Algorta, Alejandra. *Neverforgotten**. Fabio flies through the streets of Bogotá on his bicycle...until he simply forgets how to ride and life changes forever.

Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Something Like Home*. When a lost dog helps Laura find a way home to her family, they discover family in each other along the way. Also by Andrea Beatriz Arango: *Iveliz Explains it All**.

Argueta, Jorge. *Caravan to the North: Misael's Long Walk*. A powerful first-person account of Misael Martínez, a Salvadoran boy whose family joins the caravan heading north to the U.S. Also by Jorge Argueta: *Jimena Pérez puede volar*.

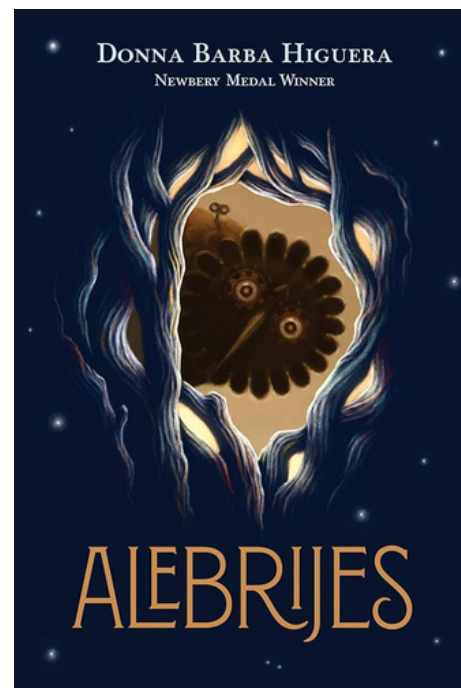
Aster, Alex. *Emblem Island: Curse of the Night Witch* (series). After changing the fate he has known since birth, twelve-year-old Tor Luna must visit the Night Witch to break the curse he now faces.

Balcárcel, Rebecca. *Shine On, Luz Véliz!* Sidelined by an injury, soccer star Luz discovers she has a knack for coding.

Behar, Ruth. *Letters from Cuba**. In 1938, eleven-year-old Esther joins her father in Cuba, where they toil together to rescue the rest of their Jewish family in Poland.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. *Miosotis Flores Never Forgets*. Miosotis Flores is excited about three things: fostering rescue dogs, goofy horror movies, and her sister Amarilis's upcoming wedding!

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



Calejo, Ryan. *The Shape of Time*. Locked away in the Bermuda Triangle, fourteen-year-olds Antares and Magdavellía set out to discover a lost and forgotten island that holds the key to foiling the evil mystics' plan to control time.

Cartaya, Pablo. *The Last Beekeeper*. To prove that she belongs in a place where only the smartest and most useful are welcomed, twelve-year-old Yolanda must find a long-extinct beehive. Also by Pablo Cartaya: *Each Tiny Spark*.

Cervantes, Angela. *The Cursed Moon*. Rafael Fuentes loves writing ghost stories, reading scary books, and entertaining his friends with terrifying tales, but when the blood moon is out and he spins a spooky tale, he awakens something sinister. Also by Angela Cervantes: *Lety Out Loud**.

Cisneros, Ernesto. *Falling Short*. Two best friends, one athletically gifted and one academically gifted, have more in common than they realize. Also by Ernesto Cisneros: *Efrén Divided**.

Córdova, Zoraida. *Valentina Salazar Is Not a Monster Hunter*. After her father is killed during a mission to rescue a magical creature who wandered into our world, Val follows in his footsteps to save a mythical egg from the monster hunters. Also by Zoraida Córdova: *The Way to Rio Luna*.

Cuevas, Adrianna. *Mari and the Curse of El Cocodrilo*. In order to avoid teasing from her classmate, Mari opts out of her Cuban family's big New Year's Eve effigy burning. Now she has a curse of bad luck from El Cocodrilo! Also by Adrianna Cuevas: *Cuba in my Pocket** and *The Ghosts of Ranch Espanto*.

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Fiction, cont.

Diaz, Alexandra. *Farewell Cuba, mi isla*. In 1960, twelve-year-old Victoria's family leaves Cuba and seeks refuge in Miami. Also by Alexandra Diaz: *Santiago's Road Home**.

Diederich, Phillippe. *Lalo Lespérance Never Forgot*. An 11-year-old struggles to learn about his Mexican and Haitian heritage while spying on a mysterious stranger during the first weeks of COVID lockdown.

Dobbs, Alda P. *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* (series). After her mother dies and her father is dragged away by soldiers during the Mexican Revolution, Petra will do anything to keep her family safe and lead them to a better life across the U.S. border.

Dominguez, Angela. *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* (series). Stella wants to be friends with the new boy in class, but sometimes she speaks Spanish instead of English and pronounces words wrong.

Duarte Armendariz, Luisana. *Julieta and the Diamond Enigma*. When a diamond goes missing from the Louvre, it is up to nine-year-old Julieta to identify the thief and exonerate her father.

Engle, Margarita. *Singing With Elephants*. Oriol learns that it takes courage to stay true to herself and do what she thinks is right—attempting to rescue a baby elephant in need—even if it means keeping secrets from those she loves.

Fajardo, Anika. *Meet Me Halfway*. When seventh-grade classmates Mattie Gómez and Mercedes Miller realize they have the same Colombian father, they hatch a plan to run away from a school field trip to meet him for the first time. Also by Anika Fajardo: *What if a Fish*.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Bluest Sky*. There are two versions of Héctor: the public and the private. It's the only way to survive in communist Cuba, but in the summer of 1980, those two versions are hard to keep separate and he must choose a direction to follow. Also by Christina Diaz Gonzalez: *Concealed*.

Gonzalez, Mandy. *Fearless* (series). Rehearsing what may be the last show in a theater, twelve-year-old Monica Garcia and other cast members are locked in and must try to appease a ghost and reverse a curse.

Hernandez, Carlos. *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* (series). To heal after his mother's death, Sal learned how to meditate. Now he can reach into time and space to retrieve things from other universes!

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

Higuera, Donna Barba. *Alebrijes*. Thirteen year-old pickpocket Leandro and his sister Gabi live in the last city on Earth, but when Gabi is caught stealing, Leando takes the fall. His consciousness is placed inside an ancient drone and left to fend on its own beyond the city walls. There he finds mutant monsters, wasteland pirates, a hidden oasis, and the truth. Also by Donna Barba Higuera: *The Last Cuentista** and *Lupe Wong Won't Dance**.

Kemp, Laekan Zea. *Omega Morales and the Legend of La Lechuza* (series). A girl must learn to trust herself—and her ancestral powers—when she comes face-to-face with the Mexican legend La Lechuza.

López, Diana. *Felice and the Wailing Woman**. The twelve-year-old daughter of La Llorona vows to free her mother and reverse the curses that have plagued the magical town of Tres Leches. Also by Diana López: *Lucky Luna**.

López, George. *Chupacarter* (series). Uprooted from his home in Los Angeles and sent to live with his grandparents in New Mexico, twelve-year-old Jorge struggles with loneliness until he meets a new friend who happens to be a chupacabra.

Manzano, Sonia. *Coming Up Cuban**. Four children from different backgrounds learn to find a place for themselves in a world changed after Fidel Castro's rise to power.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears** (series). Merci struggles as she does extra community service for her private school scholarship, plus no one will tell her why her abuelo has been acting strangely.

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *Paola Santiago and the River of Tears* (series). Science-loving Paola doubts her mother's stories of the monstrous La Llorona until she takes a walk through a cactus field near the Gila River.

Méndez, Alexandra V. *What the Jaguar Told Her*. Jade is starting eighth grade in a new city and is not excited. But then she meets Itztli, an elderly storyteller who exists between dreams and reality.

Méndez, Jasmine. *Aniana del Mar Jumps In*. Aniana del Mar belongs in the water like a dolphin belongs to the sea. But she and Papi keep her swim practices and meets hidden from Mami, who has never recovered from losing someone she loves to the water years ago.

Méndez, Yamile Saied. *Shaking up the House*. The outgoing First Daughters play a prank on their incoming counterparts, sparking an epic prank war.

Moreno, Nina. *Join the Club, Maggie Diaz* (series). Maggie is excited to start seventh-grade, but trying out all the different clubs while still juggling school work is exhausting!

Older, Daniel José. *Flood City*. Flood City is the last inhabitable place on Earth and the battleground between oppositional forces in the sky and on land.

Ogle, Rex. *The Supernatural Society* (series). Will Hunter thought his life couldn't get any worse after his parents got divorced and his mom moved them from NYC to the middle of nowhere. But this town is full of monsters only Will can see!

Ortega, Claribel A. *Witchlings** (series). Seven Salazar can't wait to be placed in the most powerful coven of witches, but something goes wrong at her Black Moon Ceremony! Also by Claribel A. Ortega: *Ghost Squad*.

Oshiro, Mark. *You Only Live Once, David Bravo*. David accidentally summons a talking, shapeshifting dog who claims that a choice in David's past put him on the wrong timeline and she can take him back to fix it. Also by Mark Oshiro: *The Insiders*.

Otheguy, Emma. *Sofía Acosta Makes a Scene*. Sofia, a fifth grader trying to fit into her ballet-obsessed Cuban American family, learns to speak up for herself and others when she mistakenly reveals a visiting dancer's plan to defect to the U.S.

Pendleton Jiménez, Karleen. *The Street Belongs to Us*. In 1984 Los Angeles, tomboy Alex and her troubled best friend Wolf are excited to explore when their street is torn up by construction machines.

Pérez, Celia C. *Tumble**. Twelve-year-old Adela Ramírez reconnects with her estranged biological father who is in the midst of a career comeback as a luchador. Also by Celia C. Pérez: *Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers*.

Piñeiro, Victor. *Time Villains* (series). When a homework assignment and a magic table summon real and fictional people from history, sixth-grader Javi and his friends join forces to save the world.

Randall, Julian. *Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa* (series). While doing research about her cousin Natasha—who disappeared in the Dominican Republic fifty years ago during the Trujillato—Pilar is transported to Zafa, an island where Dominican myths and legends come to life.

Rivera, Kaela. *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls* (series). Cecelia experiments with the forbidden art of brujería to rescue her kidnapped sister.

Rivera, Lilliam. *Barely Floating*. Twelve-year-old Natalia's dream of becoming a synchronized swimmer is in jeopardy when her parents decide they are against a sport that emphasizes looks, but Nat is determined to change their minds. Also by Lilliam Rivera: *Goldie Vance: The Hotel Whodunit* (series).

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Rodriguez, Sallie Anne. *Treasure Tracks*. Twelve-year-old Fin drags his reluctant father on a diving hunt for a missing treasure, hoping that finding the family legacy will help his ailing Abuelo.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs*. On the eve of her Quinceañera, Princess Solimar discovers that it will take more than magic to save her kingdom and prevent the destruction of the Monarch butterfly. Also by Pam Muñoz Ryan: *Mañanaland**.

Salazar, Aida. *A Seed in the Sun*. Lula Viramontes aches to one day become someone whom no one can ignore: a daring ringleader in a Mexican traveling circus. But between working the grape harvest, taking care of her younger siblings and Mamá, who has mysteriously fallen ill, it's hard to hold on to those dreams. Also by Aida Salazar: *Land of the Cranes** and *The Moon Within**.

San Miguel, Samantha. *Spineless*. Staying at a health resort in the wilds of Florida due to his asthma, 12-year-old budding naturalist Algie stumbles upon a brand-new species that he must protect from a famous collector of exotic animals.

Torres, Jennifer. *The Do-Over** (series). Twins Raquel and Lucinda used to be inseparable, but since their parents divorce Raquel has become bossy and obsessive, while Lucinda has immersed herself in her ice skating lessons. Also by Jennifer Torres: *The Fresh New Face of Griselda*.

Valenti, Karla. *Lotería*. In Oaxaca City, Mexico, ancient friends Life and Death discuss free will while engaged in a game of chance, with eleven-year-old Clara as the protagonist of their theories and a pawn in their game, moving inevitably towards her ultimate fate.

Graphic Novels

Bermudez, Alyssa. *Big Apple Diaries*. Twelve-year-old New Yorker Alyssa is navigating middle school, but then life abruptly changes on September 11, 2001 and worries about gossip and boys feel distant and insignificant.

Blas, Terry. *Hotel Dare*. Olive and her siblings are spending the summer with their estranged grandma at her creepy hotel. They're stuck inside doing boring chores but they soon stumble upon a secret involving mystery, danger and alternate worlds. Also by Terry Blas: *Dead Weight: Murder at Camp Bloom*.

Bowles, David. *Rise of the Halfling King*. A magical boy from Mayan mythology faces impossible tasks and a ruthless king to save the people of Mexico.

Castellanos, Alexis. *Isla to Island*. Sent from Cuba to Brooklyn by her parents, Marisol feels like nothing about her new life in the cold city is home, until she starts to realize that home isn't always a place.

Fajardo, Kat. *Miss Quinces**. Sue just wants to spend the summer reading and making comics at sleepaway camp with her friends, but instead she gets stuck going to Honduras to visit relatives with her parents and two sisters.

Fernandez, Kelly. *¡¡Manu!!* After a prank goes seriously wrong and she loses her powers, Manu uses a dangerous spell to restore them and learns that great power comes at a high price—one that she may not be able to pay.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *Invisible*. When five overlooked students are forced to complete their school's community service hours, they meet someone in need but must decide if they are each willing to expose their own secrets to help.

Hernandez, Jaime. *The Dragon Slayer: Folktales from Latin America** (Non-fiction graphic novels 398.2 HER). How would a kitchen maid fare against a seven-headed dragon? What happens when a woman marries a mouse? And what can a young man learn from a thousand ants?

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* (series). Terrifying tales featuring haunted buses, monstrous creatures, and spine-chilling mysteries guaranteed to have you reaching for the light switch!

Mercado, Yehudi. *Chunky* (series). Hudi would rather do anything else than try out for sports, but then he meets Chunky, his imaginary friend and mascot. Also by Yehudi Mercado: *Sci-Fu* (series).

Ogle, Rex. *Four Eyes*. When Rex finds out he needs glasses, he's beyond miserable. Dealing with the bullies at school, his family being broke, and an embarrassing lack of friends, he has way too much on his plate already.

Ortega, Claribel A. *Frizzy*. Marlene's mom makes her straighten her hair every weekend so she could have "presentable good hair." But Marlene hates being in the salon and doesn't understand why her curls are not considered pretty, so she slowly starts a journey to learn to appreciate and proudly wear her curly hair.

Ortiz, Amparo. *Saving Chupie*. Violeta is on her first-ever trip to Puerto Rico when she encounters the chupacabra! Only...he isn't as monstrous as everyone assumes.

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



Pimienta, Jose. *Twin Cities*. Luis Fernando and Luisa Teresa are twins who learn about who they are and what their sibling means to them when they are sent to different middle schools, one on each side of the U.S./Mexico border.

Reynolds, Justin and Pablo Leon. *Miles Morales: Shock Waves* (series). After an earthquake strikes his mother's birthplace of Puerto Rico, Miles springs into action to help set up a fundraiser for the devastated island. But when a new student's father goes missing, Miles makes connections between the disappearance and a giant corporation sponsoring Miles' fundraiser.

Sedita, Francesco. *The Pathfinders Society* (series). Summer camp just became a whole lot more interesting when five curious kids accept a mysterious project: work together as a team to uncover a series of strange clues, reveal a secret path -- and follow its twists and turns to a legendary treasure!

Spiegelman, Nadja and Sergio García Sánchez. *Blancaflor, the Hero with Secret Powers: A Folktale from Latin America**. Raised by an ogre of a father, Blancaflor is told not to show off her own considerable powers for fear of scaring off suitors. When a prince falls from the sky and wakes up in her lap, she is spellbound and moves heaven and earth to help the endearing, yet not so clever, young man.

Voces sin Fronteras: Our Stories, Our Truth (Non-fiction graphic novels 362.779 VOC). Sixteen young people from the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, D.C. came together to tell their own stories of immigration and transformation.

Who was the Voice of the People?: Cesar Chavez (Graphic novel biography, B CHAVEZ). Discover the true story behind Cesar Chavez and the Delano Grape Strike, as he and the National Farm Workers Association set out on an incredible three-hundred-mile protest march in support of farmworkers' rights.

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Pura Belpré Book Awards

Libros en Español

Alcolea, Ana. *El abrazo de la sirena*. A clase de Miguel llega una nueva compañera, Sabina, que está muy triste. Ella cree que su madre ha ido a vivir con las sirenas.

Catdoor, Sabrina. *Los Rescatadores Mágicos y la puerta a Imaginaria* (serie). En casa de la abuela hay una gatera, pero abuela nunca ha tenido gatos. Marina, Lucas y Zoe descubren que a través de la gatera se accede a un mundo fantástico y que tienen una misión: salvar al rey del bosque.

Montes, Bárbara. *Amanda Black: Una herencia peligrosa* (serie). El mismo día en que Amanda cumple trece años recibe una carta misteriosa que cambiará su vida.

Putellas, Alexia. *Alexia superfutbolista*. Alexia sueña con ser futbolista profesional. Para conseguirlo, tiene que dar lo mejor de sí misma e impresionar a los ojeadores. Pero, cuando llega al campeonato de la Copa Inter, empiezan a pasar cosas muy extrañas.

Ronda, Magela. *Cuentos españoles de hoy y de siempre*. Una deliciosa colección de cuentos tradicionales españoles para leer en familia.

Santamaría, Jara. *La última bruja*. Ingrid nunca ha terminado de encajar. Sin embargo, está a punto de descubrir que el mundo en el que vive no es el único que existe. Igual que la luz necesita la oscuridad, nuestro mundo está conectado a otro muy similar... Es el lugar donde habita la magia. Y la magia está desapareciendo. También de Jara Santamaría: Dioses del norte: *La leyenda del bosque* (serie).

Valenzuela Sánchez, Fermín. *Criaturas míticas de España: cuaderno de campo*. Acompaña Mía y a la Esfinge de Balazote en un viaje a través del ilusorio de nuestras tradiciones de España, a menudo transmitidas de boca en boca. Comparte nuestro viaje descubriendo cuarenta criaturas y leyendas, ya casi olvidadas, y ayúdanos a perpetuarlas en nuestra recuerdo.



The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latine writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latine 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.

2023 Winner for Illustration

*Where Wonder Grows**, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia and written by Xelena González

2023 Honor Books for Illustration

*The Coquíes Still Sing**, illustrated by Krystal Quiles, written by Karina Nicole González

A Land of Books: Dreams of Young Mexihcah Word Painters by Duncan Tonatuih

*Magic: Once Upon a Faraway Land** by Mirelle Ortega

Phenomenal AOC: The Roots and Rise of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, illustrated by Loris Lora, written by Anika Aldamuy Denise

*Srta./Miss Quinces** by Kat Fajardo

*Still Dreaming / Seguimos Soñando**, illustrated by Magdalena Mora, written by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez

2023 Youth Author Winner

Frizzy by Claribel A. Ortega

2023 Youth Author Honor Books

*The Coquíes Still Sing** by Karina Nicole González

*The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border** by Stephen Briseño

*Tumble** by Celia C. Pérez

Past Pura Belpré Book Award Author Winners

2009: *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* by Margarita Engle and *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book* by Yuyi Morales

2010: *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez and *Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day**, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Pat Mora

2011: *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan and *Grandma's Gift* by Eric Velasquez

2012: *Under the Mesquite* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall and *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* by Duncan Tonatuih

2013: *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz and *Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert*, illustrated by David Diaz, written by Gary D. Schmidt

2014: *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* by Meg Medina and *Niño Wrestles the World** by Yuyi Morales

2015: *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by Marjorie Agosín and *Viva Frida** by Yuyi Morales

2016: *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir* by Margarita Engle and *Drum Dream Girl*, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle

2017: *Juana & Lucas* by Juana Medina and *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*, illustrated by Raúl Gonzalez, written by Cathy Camper

2018: *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar and *La Princesa and the Pea**, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal, written by Susan Middleton Elya

2019: *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo and *Dreamers** by Yuyi Morales

2020: *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez and *Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln**, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle

2021: *Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros and *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat* by Raúl Gonzalez (Raúl the Third)

2022: *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera and *¡Vamos! Let's Cross the Bridge* by Raúl Gonzalez (Raúl the Third)

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