

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

1996 AUTHOR Cofer, Judith Ortiz.
AN ISLAND LIKE YOU: STORIES OF THE BARRIO.

A collection of stories captures the lives of different teenagers growing up in the barrio. (Not Available)

ILLUSTRATOR Guevara, Susan.
CHATO'S KITCHEN.

To get the "ratoncitos," little mice, who have moved into the barrio to come to his house, Chato the cat prepares all kinds of good food. (XXF Soto)

1998 AUTHOR Martinez, Victor.
PARROT IN THE OVEN: MI VIDA.

Manny relates his coming of age experiences as a member of a poor Mexican-American family in which the alcoholic father only adds to everyone's struggle. (YAF Martinez)

ILLUSTRATOR Garcia, Stephanie.
SNAPSHOTS FROM THE WEDDING.

Maya, the flower girl, describes a Mexican American wedding through snapshots of the day's events, beginning with the procession to the altar and ending with her sleeping after the dance. (Not Available)

2000 AUTHOR Ada, Alma Flor.
UNDER THE ROYAL PALMS: A CHILDHOOD IN CUBA.

The author recalls her life and impressions growing up in Cuba. (X921 Ada)

ILLUSTRATOR Garza, Carmen Lomas.
MAGIC WINDOWS.

In Spanish and English, Carmen Lomas Garza portrays her family's Mexican customs through cut-paper work. (SPA X305.868 Lomas Garza)

2002 AUTHOR Ryan, Pam Muñoz.
ESPERANZA RISING.

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression. (XF Ryan)

ILLUSTRATOR Guevara, Susan.
CHATO AND THE PARTY ANIMALS.

Chato decides to throw a "pachanga" for his friend Novio Boy, who has never had a birthday party. (XXF Soto)

2004 AUTHOR Alvarez, Julia.
BEFORE WE WERE FREE.

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo. (YAF Alvarez)

ILLUSTRATOR Morales, Yuyi.
JUST A MINUTE: A TRICKSTER TALE AND COUNTING BOOK.

Señor Calavera arrives at Grandma Beetle's door, ready to take her to the next life, but after helping her count, in English and Spanish, as she makes her birthday preparations, he changes his mind. (X398.272 Morales)

2006 AUTHOR Canales, Viola.
THE TEQUILA WORM.

Living with her Mexican-American family in a blue-collar town in Texas, Sofia is content with the rich and culturally stimulating life she has always lived. When she becomes the recipient of a special scholarship to an elite boarding school far away, Sofia is both excited and fearful of all the unknowns that lie ahead. (YAF Canales)

ILLUSTRATOR Colón, Raul.
DOÑA FLOR: A TALL TALE ABOUT A GIANT WOMAN WITH A GREAT BIG HEART.

Doña Flor, a giant lady with a big heart, sets off to protect her neighbors from what they think is a dangerous animal, but soon discovers the tiny secret behind the huge noise. (XF Mora)

2008 AUTHOR Engle, Margarita.
THE POET SLAVE OF CUBA: A BIOGRAPHY OF JUAN FRANCISCO MANZANO.

Born a slave, raised by a woman not his mother, and denied an education, Juan overcame all the personal obstacles he faced as a child in order to reach freedom, pursue natural talents, and become the celebrated poet he was destined to be. Written in verse. (X811 Engle)

ILLUSTRATOR Morales, Yuyi.
LOS GATOS BLACK ON HALLOWEEN.

Easy to read, rhyming text about Halloween night incorporates Spanish words, from *las brujas* riding their broomsticks to *los monstruos* whose monstrous ball is interrupted by a true horror. (XXF Montes)

2009 AUTHOR Engle, Margarita.
THE SURRENDER TREE: POEMS OF CUBA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

This history in verse creates a lyrical portrait of Cuba. (YA 811 Engle)

ILLUSTRATOR Morales, Yuyi.
JUST IN CASE: A TRICKSTER TALE AND SPANISH ALPHABET BOOK.

As Señor Calavera prepares for Grandma Beetle's birthday, he finds an alphabetical assortment of unusual presents, but with the help of Zelmiro the Ghost, he finds the best gift of all. (XXF Morales)

2010 AUTHOR Alvarez, Julia.
RETURN TO SENDER.

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders. (XF Alvarez)

2010 ILLUSTRATOR Mora, Pat.
BOOK FIESTA!: CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY/ BOOK DAY; CELEBREMOS EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS /EL DÍA DE LOS LIBROS.

Children read aloud in various settings to celebrate El día de los niños, or Children's Day, in this bilingual story. Includes facts about Mexico's annual celebration of children (April 30) and the book fiestas that are often included. (SPA XXF Mora)

2011 AUTHOR Ryan, Pam Muñoz.
THE DREAMER.

A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. (XF Ryan)

ILLUSTRATOR Velasquez, Eric.
GRANDMA'S GIFT.

The author describes Christmas at his grandmother's apartment in Spanish Harlem the year she introduced him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Diego Velazquez's portrait of Juan de Pareja. (XXF Velasquez)

2012 AUTHOR McCall, Guadalupe Garcia.
UNDER THE MESQUITE.

Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, finding refuge in acting and writing poetry. Written in free verse. (YAF McCall)

ILLUSTRATOR Tonatiuh, Duncan.
DIEGO RIVERA: HIS WORLD AND OURS.

Highlights the accomplishments of Mexican painter, activist and muralist Diego Rivera, through stylized illustrations with elements of Mayan artwork and an interpretation of Diego's original artwork. (X759.972 Rivera)

2013 AUTHOR Saenz, Benjamin Alire.
ARISTOTLE AND DANTE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE.

Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before. (YAF Saenz)

ILLUSTRATOR Diaz, David.
MARTIN DE PORRES: THE ROSE IN THE DESERT.

The story of Saint Martin de Porres--an endearing tale of perseverance, faith, and triumph over racial and economic prejudice. (X282.092 Martin de Porres)

2014 AUTHOR Medina, Meg.
YAQUI DELGADO WANTS TO KICK YOUR ASS.

Word is that Yaqui thinks Piddy is stuck-up, shakes her stuff when she walks, and isn't Latin enough with her white skin, good grades, and no accent. As the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life. (YAF Medina)

ILLUSTRATOR Morales, Yuyi.
NIÑO WRESTLES THE WORLD.

Lucha Libre champion Niño has no trouble fending off monstrous opponents, but when his little sisters awaken from their naps, he is in for a no-holds-barred wrestling match that will truly test his skills. (XXF Morales)

2015 AUTHOR Agosín, Marjorie.
I LIVED ON BUTTERFLY HILL.

When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic, sadistic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety and her parents must go into hiding before they "disappear." (XF Agosín)

ILLUSTRATOR Morales, Yuyi.
VIVA FRIDA.

Via spare text, examines Kahlo's creative process. (X759.972 Kahlo)

2016 AUTHOR Engle, Margarita.
ENCHANTED AIR: TWO CULTURES, TWO WINGS: A MEMOIR.

A memoir in free verse that conveys the story of growing up in two cultures during an era of great tension between the United States and Cuba. (YA 921 Engle)

ILLUSTRATOR López, Rafael.
DRUM DREAM GIRL.

A tale about Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl in 1930s Cuba, who became a world-renowned drummer. (XXF Engle)

2017 AUTHOR Medina, Juana.
JUANA & LUCAS.

A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place. (BRIDGES XF Medina)

ILLUSTRATOR Gonzalez, Raúl.
LOWRIDERS TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.

Lupe Impala, Elirio Malaria, and El Chavo Octopus must rescue their cat from the Aztec god of the underworld. (XGN Camper)

2018 AUTHOR Behar, Ruth.
LUCKY BROKEN GIRL.

Fifth-grader Ruthie Mizrahi, newly arrived to the United States from Cuba in the 1960s, is confined to a full-body cast after an accident. Surrounded by her Cuban-Jewish family and a diverse group of neighbors, Ruthie finds strength and courage to heal and grow. (XF Behar)

ILLUSTRATOR Martinez-Neal, Juana.
LA PRINCESA AND THE PEA.

In this bilingual twist on a classic fairy tale, the mother of a young prince does all she can to make sure that no maiden who is unworthy will win the heart of her son. (XXF Elya)

2019 AUTHOR Acevedo, Elizabeth.
THE POET X.

Xiomara writes poetry as she deals with her extremely religious mother and other challenges.

ILLUSTRATOR Morales, Yuyi.
DREAMERS

An immigrant mother and her son find the library, whose books teach them and give them the confidence they need to succeed and dream in their new country.

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Pura Belpré Awards



The Pura Belpré Award has been given every other year since 1996. Since the 2009 award, it is given annually. The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library.

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