

Favorite Latinx Children's Authors

Alma Flor Ada

Alma Flor Ada, Professor Emerita at the University of San Francisco, has devoted her life to advocacy for peace by promoting a pedagogy oriented to personal realization and social justice. Alma Flor has written numerous children's books of poetry, narrative, folklore, and nonfiction; *The Gold Coin* (1994), *My Name Is María Isabel* (1995), *Under the Royal Palms* (1998), and, with F. Isabel Campoy, *Yes! We Are Latinos* (2013). In 2012, she received the Virginia Hamilton Award in recognition of her body of work for children. In 2014, the Mexican government honored her with the prestigious OHTLI Award for her services to the Mexican communities in the United States.

David Bowles

David Bowles is a Mexican American author and translator from South Texas, where he teaches at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He has written several award-winning titles, most notably *The Smoking Mirror* (2015) and *They Call Me Güero* (2018). In 2019, he co-founded the hashtag and activist movement #DignidadLiteraria, which has negotiated greater Latinx representation in publishing.

Monica Brown

Monica Brown is the author of the Lola Levine chapter book series, the Sarai chapter book series, and many award-winning picture books, including *Waiting for the Biblioburro* (2011) and *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no combina* (2011). Her picture book biographies include *Tito Puente: Mambo King/Tito Puente: Rey del Mambo* (2013), and *Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People* (2011). Monica's books are inspired by her Peruvian-American heritage and desire to share Latinx stories with children.

Carmen Agra Deedy

Carmen Agra Deedy was born in Havana, Cuba, and came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1964. She grew up in Decatur, Georgia, and has been writing for children for over two decades. She has spoken before Nobel Laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners, CEOs of major corporations, and heads of state. Over a span of 20 years, Deedy has told stories to hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren. They remain her favorite audiences. Some of her titles include *The Library Dragon* (2012), *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* (2013), *14 Cows for America* (2016), and *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!* (2017).

Margarita Engle

Margarita Engle was born in Los Angeles but developed a deep attachment to her mother's homeland, Cuba, during childhood summers with relatives on the island. She studied agronomy and botany along with creative writing, and now lives in Central California with her husband. Margarita is a Cuban American author of many verse novels, memoirs, and picture books. *A Song of Frutas* (2021), *Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln* (2019), *All the Way to Havana* (2017), and *Drum Dream Girl* (2015).

Maya Gonzalez

Maya Gonzalez is an artist, author, educator, activist, peacemaker, publisher, equality lover, obsessive recycler, traveler, river lover, tree talker, and sky kisser. Her fine art graces the cover of *Contemporary Chicano/a Art* and is well documented as part of the Chicano Art Movement. She has illustrated over 20 award-winning children's books, several of which she has also written, including Ernesto Javier Martinez's *When We Love Someone We Sing to Them/Cuando amamos cantamos* (2018), *My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo* (2013), *Call Me Tree* (2014), and *I Know the River Loves Me/Yo sé que el río me ama* (2009).

Juan Felipe Herrera

Juan Felipe Herrera was born in Fowler, California. The son of migrant farmers, Herrera moved often, living in trailers or tents along the roads of the San Joaquin Valley in Southern California. As a child, he attended school in a variety of small towns from San Francisco to San Diego. In 2015, Herrera was named Poet Laureate of the United States. His books of prose for children include *Jabberwalking* (2018), *Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* (2014), *Calling the Doves* (2001), and *Upside Down Boy* (2006).

René Colato Laínez

René Colato Laínez is a graduate of the Vermont College MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults. He has been a bilingual elementary teacher at Fernangeles Elementary School, where he is known by the students as "the teacher full of stories." René is the author of many books for children, including *I Am René, the Boy* (2005), *Playing Lotería* (2006), *René Has Two Last Names* (2009), and *My Shoes and I: Crossing Three Borders/Mis zapatos y yo: Cruzando tres fronteras* (2019).

Juana Martinez-Neal

Juana Martinez-Neal was born in Peru, and lives in Connecticut with her family. Juana is the daughter and granddaughter of painters. She is the recipient of a Caldecott Honor, a Sibert Medal, and a Pura Belpré Medal for Illustration. Her books include *Alma and How She Got Her Name* (2019), *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* (2019), *Babymoon* (2019), *Swashby and the Sea* (2020), and *Zonia's Rainforest* (2021).

Meg Medina

Meg Medina is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author who writes picture books, as well as middle grade and young adult fiction. When not writing, Meg works on community projects that support girls, Latinx youth, and/or literacy. Meg's works have been called "heartbreaking," "lyrical," and "must-haves for every collection." Her books include *Merci Suárez Can't Dance* (2021), *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* (2020), *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* (2020), *Mango, Abuela, and Me* (2016), and *Tía Isa Wants a Car* (2012),

Pat Mora

Pat Mora is an award-winning author of books for children and adults, a literacy advocate, and a popular presenter. In 1996, she founded Children's Day, Book Day; in Spanish, El día de los niños, El día de los libros. Pat and her partners, including the American Library Association and First Book, nationally promote this yearlong initiative of creatively linking all children and families to books and establishing annual Book Day celebrations. Pat's poetry collections for children include *Bookjoy, Wordjoy* (2018); *Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day; Celebremos El día de los niños/El día de los libros* (2016); and *Yum! ¡MmMm! ¡Qué rico!* (2007).

Yuyi Morales

Born and raised in Mexico where she currently resides, Yuyi Morales lived for many years in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she still maintains close relations with booksellers and librarians. A professional storyteller, dancer, choreographer, puppeteer, and artist, she has won the prestigious Pura Belpré Award for Illustration six times for *Just a Minute* (2016), *Los Gatos Black on Halloween* [author Marisa Montes] (2016), *Just in Case* (2018), *Niño Wrestles the World* (2013), *Dreamers* (2018), and *Viva Frida* (2014), which also received a Caldecott Honor.

José-Luis Orozco

José-Luis Orozco is a bilingual educator, children's author, and recording artist who has dedicated his life to creating quality bilingual music, books, and videos for children. He encourages learning of the Spanish language and promotes Latin American culture through his art. His rich catalog includes 15 CDs, a DVD, and three award-winning songbooks: *De colores* (1994), *Rin, Rin, Rin, Do, Re, Mi* (2009), and *Fiestas* (2002).

Duncan Tonatiuh

Duncan Tonatiuh is an award-winning author-illustrator. He is both Mexican and American. He grew up in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and graduated from Parsons School of Design and Eugene Lang College in New York City. His artwork is inspired by Pre-Columbian art, particularly that of the Mixtec codices. His aim is to create images and stories that honor the past, but that are relevant to people today, especially children: *The Princess and the Warrior* (2016), *Funny Bones* (2015), *Separate Is Never Equal* (2014), *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote* (2013), *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* (2012), and *Dear Primo* (2010).