

# More Latinx Children's Authors

## **Angela Dominguez**

Angela Dominguez was born in Mexico City and grew up in the great state of Texas. She is the author and illustrator of several books for children and a two-time recipient of Pura Belpré Illustration Honor. Her debut middle grade novel, *Stella Díaz Has Something to Say*, was a New York Public Library and a Chicago Public Library pick for Best Books for Kids in 2018, a Sid Fleischman Award winner; and an ALA Notable. When Angela is not in her studio or visiting schools, she teaches at the Academy of Art University, which honored her with their Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

## **Zara González Hoang**

Zara grew up in a little bungalow in the frozen tundra of Minnesota. Surrounded by snow, she spent her days dreaming, doodling, and listening to the colorful stories of her dad's life growing up in Puerto Rico, while trying to figure out where she fit in as a Puerto Rican Jew in a sea of Scandinavians. (She is still figuring that out.)

## **Jackie Azúa Kramer**

"Many lives ago I was born into a Puerto Rican and Ecuadorian loving family. Together we traveled to faraway places. Then I grew up and had some fun and interesting experiences as an actor, singer, and school counselor. Now I'm an author, and while away my time writing children's picture books. What ties these all together are my dreams and imagination."

## **Mariana Llanos**

Mariana Llanos was born in Lima, Peru. Mariana developed an early passion for writing poetry, short stories, and plays all the way through school. She studied theater in the prestigious school Cuatro Tablas based in Lima and moved to Oklahoma in 2002. Mariana's most recent works include *Luca's Bridge* (Penny Candy Books, 2019), *Eunice and Kate* (Penny Candy Books, 2020), and the upcoming *Run Little Chaski* (Barefoot Books, 2021).

## **Yamile Saied Méndez**

Yamile (sha-MEE-lay) Saied Méndez is a fútbol-obsessed Argentine-American, Pura Belpré gold medal-winning author. She lives in Utah with her Puerto Rican husband and their five kids, two adorable dogs, and one majestic cat. An inaugural Walter Dean Myers Grant recipient, she is also a graduate of Voices of Our Nations (VONA) and the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA Writing for Children and Young Adult program. She writes picture books, middle grade, young adult, and adult romance fiction. Yamile is a founding member of Las Musas, the first collective of women and nonbinary Latinx MG and YA authors.

## **Areli Morales**

Areli Morales describes herself as a child of two worlds. She was born in Puebla, Mexico, and she moved to New York at the age of six. Everything in New York was different. Gone were the Saturdays at Abuela's house, filled with cousins and sunshine. Instead, things were busy and fast and noisy. Areli's limited English came out wrong. But with time, America became her home. And she saw it as a land of opportunity where millions of immigrants who came before her paved their own paths. When her application for The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was approved, her life greatly changed. It was then, without the threat of deportation, that she finally felt able to come out of the shadows.

## **Aida Salazar**

Aida Salazar is an award-winning author and arts activist whose writings for adults and children explore issues of identity and social justice. She is the author of the critically acclaimed middle grade verse novels, *The Moon Within* (International Latino Book Award Winner) and *Land of the Cranes* (California Library Association Beatty Award, NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Honor, Jane Addams Peace Honor). Her forthcoming books include the picture book anthology *In the Spirit of a Dream: 13 Stories of Immigrants of Color* (Fall, 2021). Aida is a founding member of LAS MUSAS, a Latinx kidlit debut author collective.

## **Karla Arenas Valenti**

"I am a multiethnic, multicultural author of books for and about children. I was born and raised in Mexico City, with ancestry spanning back to Ireland, Spain, and the indigenous people of Mexico. I have also put down new roots in many countries I now call home and whose cultural character shapes my identity, including France, Japan, Germany, and the United States. Not surprisingly, I love exploring themes of identity and diversity in my storytelling. Long philosophical conversations are a favorite pastime."