



The Pura Belpré Award Narrative Winners 1996-2023



The Pura Belpré Award is presented to a Latino writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience. The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. The award was a biennial award from its inaugural year in 1996 through 2008 when it became annual.

2023: **Middle Grade Winner: Frizzy** written by Claribel A. Ortega (J GN Ortega)

Honor Books

The Coquíes Still Sing written by Karina Nicole González and illustrated by Krystal Quiles (J Gonzalez)

The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border written by Stephen Briseño and illustrated by Magdalena Mora

Tumble written and by Celia C. Pérez

Young Adult Winner: Burn Down, Rise Up written by Vincent Tirado

Honor Books

Breathe and Count Back from Ten written by Natalia Sylvester

High Spirits written by Camille Gomera-Tavarez

The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School written by Sonora Reyes

2022: **Middle Grade Winner: The Last Cuentista** written by Donna Barba Higuera (YA FICTION Higuera)

Honor Books

Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna written by Alda P. Dobbs (J Dobbs)

Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahuatl written by Gloria Amescua and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

De aquí como el coqui written and illustrated by Nomar Perez, translated by Farah Perez

Young Adult Winner: How Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe written by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland (YA FICTION Vasquez)

Honor Books

Fifteen Hundred Miles from the Sun written by Jonny Garza Villa (YA FICTION Garza Villa)

Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet written by Laekan Zea Kemp (YA FICTION Kemp)

Where I Belong written by Marcia Argueta Mickelson (YA FICTION Mickelson)

2021: **Middle Grade Winner: Efrén Divided** written by Ernesto Cisneros (J Cisneros)

Honor Books

The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez written by Adrianna Cuevas (J Cuevas)

Lupe Wong Won't Dance written by Donna Barba Higuera

Young Adult Winner: Furia written by Yamile Saied Méndez (YA FICTION Méndez)

Honor Books

Never Look Back written by Lilliam Rivera (YA FICTION Rivera)

We Are Not from Here written by Jenny Torres Sanchez (YA FICTION Torres)

2020: **Sal and Gabi Break the Universe** written by Carlos Hernandez (J Hernandez)

Honor Books

Lety Out Loud written by Angela Cervantes (J Cervantes)

The Other Half of Happy written by Rebecca Balcárcel (J Balcárcel)

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré written by Anika Aldamuy Denise (JB Belpre)

Solider for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War written by Duncan Tonatiuh (JB Saenz)

- 2019: **The Poet X** written by Elizabeth Acevedo (YA Fiction Acevedo)
Honor Books
The Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems written by David Bowles
- 2018: **Lucky Broken Girl** written by Ruth Behar (J Behar)
Honor Books
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora written by Pablo Cartaya (J Cartaya)
The First Rule of Punk written by Celia C. Pérez (J Perez)
- 2017: **Juana & Lucas** written by Juana Medina (J Medina)
Honor Books
The Only Road written by Alexandra Diaz
- 2016: **Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings** written by Margarita Engle (YA B Engle)
Honor Books
The Smoking Mirror written by David Bowles
Mango, Abuela and Me written by Meg Medina (JE Medina)
- 2015: **I Lived on Butterfly Hill** written by Marjorie Agosín
Honor Books
Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes written by Juan Felipe Herrera (J 920.009268 Her)
- 2014: **Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass** written by Meg Medina (YA Fiction Medina)
Honor Books
The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist written by Margarita Engle (YA Fiction Engle)
The Living written by Matt de la Peña (YA Fiction de la Peña)
Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale written by Duncan Tonatiuh (JE Tonatiuh)
- 2013: **Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe** written by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Honor Books
The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano written by Sonia Manzano
- 2012: **Under the Mesquite** written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
Honor Books
Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck written by Margarita Engle
Maximilian and the Mystery of the Guardian Angel written by Xavier Garza
- 2011: **The Dreamer** written by Pam Muñoz Ryan (J Ryan)
Honor Books
90 Miles to Havana written by Enrique Flores-Galbis
The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba written by Margarita Engle
¡Olé! Flamenco written and illustrated by George Ancona (J 793.3 Anc)
- 2010: **Return to Sender** written by Julia Alvarez (J Alvarez)
Honor Books
Diego: Bigger Than Life written by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand (J 759.972 Ber)
Federico García Lorca written by Georgina Lázaro
- 2009: **The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom** written by Margarita Engle (J 811.54 Eng)
Honor Books
Just In Case written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales (Spanish JE Morales)
Reaching Out written by Francisco Jiménez
The Storyteller's Candle written by Lucía González and illustrated by Lulu Delacre

2008: **The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano** written by Margarita Engle

Honor Books

Frida: ¡Viva la Vida! Long Live Life! written by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

Los Gatos Black on Halloween written by Marisa Montes and illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale written by Carmen Agra Deedy (JE Deedy)

2007: **No Award Presented**

2006: **The Tequila Worm** written by Viola Canales

Honor Books

Becoming Naomi León written by Pam Muñoz Ryan (J Ryan)

César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can! written by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand (JB Chavez)

Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart written by Pat Mora (JE Mora)

2005: **No Award Presented**

2004: **Before We Were Free** written by Julia Alvarez

Honor Books

Cuba 15 written by Nancy Osa

My Diary for Here to There/Mi diario de aquí hasta allá written by Amada Irma Pérez

2003: **No Award Presented**

2002: **Esperanza Rising** written by Pam Muñoz Ryan (J Ryan)

Honor Books

Breaking Through written by Francisco Jiménez (Fiction Jimenez)

Iguanas In the Snow written by Francisco X. Alarcón

2001: **No Award Presented**

2000: **Under the Royal Palms: A Childhood in Cuba** written by Alma Flor Ada

Honor Books

From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems written by Francisco X. Alarcón

Laughing Out Loud, I Fly: Poems in English and Spanish written by Carmen Lomas Garza

1999: **No Award Presented**

1998: **Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida** written by Victor Martinez (YA Fiction Martinez)

Honor Books

Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems written by Francisco Alarcón (J 811.54 Ala)

Spirits of the High Mesa written by Floyd Martinez

1997: **No Award Presented**

1996: **An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio** written by Judith Ortiz Cofer

Honor Books

The Bossy Gallito: A Traditional Cuban Folktale written by Lucía González and illustrated by Lulu Delacre

Baseball in April, and Other Stories written by Gary Soto