

Pura Belpré Award Books

This award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator who work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

*The award is now given annually. It was given as a biennial award from 1996 through 2008. Beginning with the 2021 award, the Youth Adult Author category was added.

Year	Title & Author
2025	The Dream Catcher by Marcelo Verdad (Youth Illustrator)
	Lola by Karla Arenas Valenti (Youth Author)
	Shut Up, This is Serious by Carolina Ixta (Young Adult Author)
2024	Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir by Pedro Martin (Children’s Narrative and Illustrator)
	Saints of the Household by Ari Tison (Young Adult Narrative)
2023	Frizzy by Claribel A. Ortega (il. Rose Bousamra) (Children’s Narrative)
	Where Wonder Grows by Xelena González (il. Adriana M. Garcia) (Youth Illustrator)
	Burn Down, Rise Up by Vincent Tirado (Young Adult Narrative)
2022	The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera (Children’s Narrative)
	¡Vamos! Let’s Cross the Bridge by Raúl Gonzales (Youth Illustrator)
	How the Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland (Youth Adult Narrative)
2021*	Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros (Children’s Narrative)
	¡Vamos! Let’s Go Eat by Raúl Gonzalez (Youth Illustrator)
	Furia by Yamile Saied Méndez (Youth Adult Narrative)
2020	Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez (Narrative)
	Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln il. by Rafael López, by Margarita Engle (Illustration)
2019	The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo (Narrative)
	Dreamers by Yuyi Morales (Illustration)
2018	Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar (Narrative)
	La Princesa and the Pea il. by Juana Martinez-Neal, by Susan Middleton Elya (Illustration)
2017	Juana & Lucas by Juana Medina (Narrative)
	Lowriders to the Center of the Earth il. by Raúl Gonzales, by Cathy Camper (Illustration)
2016	Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir by Margarita Engle (Narrative)
	Drum Dream Girl il. by Rafael López, by Margarita Engle (Illustration)
2015	I Lived on a Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosín, il. by Lee White (Narrative)
	Viva Frida by Yuyi Morales (Illustration)
2014	Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass by Meg Medina (Narrative)
	Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales (Illustration)
2013	Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz (Narrative)
	Martín de Porres: The Rose in the Desert il. by David Diaz, by Gary D. Schmidt (Illustration)

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2012	Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (Narrative)
	Diego Rivera: His World and Ours by Duncan Tonatiuh (Illustration)
2011	The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan, il. by Peter Sís (Narrative)
	Grandma's Gift by Eric Velasquez (Illustration)
2010	Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez (Narrative)
	Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day il. by Rafael López, by Pat Mora (Illustration)
2009	The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle (Narrative)
	Just in Case by Yuyi Morales
2008	The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano by Margarita Engle, il. by Sean Qualls (Narrative)
	Los Gatos Black on Halloween il. by Yuyi Morales, by Marisa Montes (Illustration)
2006*	The Tequila Worm by Viola Canales (Narrative)
	Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart il. by Raul Colón, by Pat Mora (Illustration)
2004	Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez (Narrative)
	Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book by Yuyi Morales (Illustration)
2002	Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (Narrative)
	Chato and the Party Animals il. by Susan Guevara, by Gary Soto (Illustration)
2000	Under the Royal Palms: A Childhood in Cuba by Alma Flor Ada (Narrative)
	Magic Windows by Carmen Lomas Garza (Illustration)
1998	Parrot in the Oven: mi vida by Victor Martinez (Narrative)
	Snapshots from the Wedding il. by Stephanie Garcia, by Gary Soto (Illustration)
1996	An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio by Judith Ortiz Cofer (Narrative)
	Chato's Kitchen il. by Susan Guevara, by Gary Soto (Illustration)