

Pura Belpré Award



The 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 whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. The following titles are shelved by the first three letters of the author's last name in the juvenile chapter book section unless otherwise noted. Need help? Ask a librarian!

Behar, Ruth. [Lucky Broken Girl](#). (Available through MORE) **2018 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

In 1960s New York, fifth-grader Ruthie, a Cuban-Jewish immigrant, must rely on books, art, her family, and friends in her multicultural neighborhood when an accident puts her in a body cast.

Martinez-Neal, Juana. [La Princesa and the Pea](#). (Available through MORE)

2018 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Winner

A rhyming twist on a classic fairy tale in which a queen places a pea under a young lady's mattress to see if she is truly a princess. Incorporates Spanish words and Includes a glossary.

Medina, Juana. [Juana & Lucas](#). (J MED) **2017 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

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.



Engle, Margarita. [Enchanted air : two cultures, two wings : a memoir](#).

(available through MORE and as an ebook through OverDrive) **2016 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

In this ... memoir, Margarita Engle, the first Latina woman to receive a Newbery Honor, tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War.

Agosín, Marjorie. [I Lived on Butterfly Hill](#). (available through MORE and as an ebook through OverDrive)

2015 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner

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."

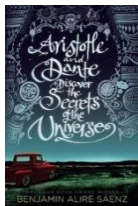
Medina, Meg. [Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass](#).

(available through MORE and as an ebook through OverDrive) **2014 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

One morning before school, some girl tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado hates her and wants to kick her ass. Piddy doesn't even know who Yaqui is, never mind what she's done to piss her off. As the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life. Is there any way for Piddy to survive without closing herself off or running away?

Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. [Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#). (Young Adult Fiction: YA SAE) **2013 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

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.



McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. [Under the Mesquite](#). (Young Adult Fiction: YA MCC)

2012 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner

Lupita, the oldest of eight siblings, is used to taking the lead. But when she discovers Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, Lupita is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of their close-knit Mexican American family. Overwhelmed by change, she seeks refuge in the healing power of words.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. [The dreamer.](#) (J RYA) **2011 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner**

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.

Alvarez, Julia. [Return to Sender.](#) (available through MORE and as an ebook through OverDrive)

2010 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book

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.

Engle, Margarita. [The surrender tree : poems of Cuba's struggle for freedom.](#) (available through MORE)

2009 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book

Cuba has fought three wars for independence, and still she is not free. This history in verse creates a lyrical portrait of Cuba.

Engle, Margarita. [The poet slave of Cuba : a biography of Juan Francisco Manzano.](#) (available through MORE)

2008 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book

Juan Francisco Manzano was born in 1797 into the household of wealthy slave owners in Cuba. He spent his early years at the side of his owner's wife, entertaining her friends. His poetry was his outlet, reflecting the beauty and cruelty of his world. Written in verse.

Canales, Viola. [The tequila worm.](#) (available through MORE)

2006 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book

Sofia grows up in the close-knit community of the barrio in McAllen, Texas, then finds that her experiences as a scholarship student at an Episcopal boarding school in Austin only strengthen her ties to family and her "compadres."

Alvarez, Julia. [Before we were free.](#) (available through MORE and as an ebook through OverDrive)

2004 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book

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.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. [Esperanza rising.](#) (J RYA) **2002 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.



Martinez, Victor. [Parrot in the oven : mi vida.](#) (available through MORE)

1998 Pura Belpré Author Award Honor Book

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.