



BOOK SET: BIOGRAPHIES

This book set includes 10 different picture book biographies featuring a variety of Latin American historical figures.

Please note, some titles have multiple copies. There are a total of 15 books in this book box

DANCING HANDS: HOW TERESA CARREÑO PLAYED THE PIANO FOR PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael López. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019. (Grades K-3).

As a little girl, Teresa Carreño loved to let her hands dance across the beautiful keys of the piano. If she felt sad, music cheered her up, and when she was happy, the piano helped her share that joy. Soon she was writing her own songs and performing in grand cathedrals. Then a revolution in Venezuela forced her family to flee to the United States. Teresa felt lonely in this unfamiliar place, where few of the people she met spoke Spanish. Worst of all, there was fighting in her new home, too—the Civil War. Still, Teresa kept playing, and soon she grew famous as the talented Piano Girl who could play anything from a folk song to a sonata. So famous, in fact, that President Abraham Lincoln wanted her to play at the White House! Yet with the country torn apart by war, could Teresa's music bring comfort to those who needed it most?

1 copy

DANZA!: AMALIA HERNÁNDEZ AND EL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO

Written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017. (Grades 1-5).

Award-winning author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh tells the story of Amalia Hernández, dancer and founder of El Ballet Folklórico de México. As a child, Amalia saw a pair of dancers in the town square. The way they stomped and swayed to the rhythm of the beat inspired her. She knew one day she would become a dancer. Amalia studied ballet and modern dance under the direction of skilled teachers who had performed in world-renowned dance companies. But she never forgot the folk dance she had seen years earlier. She began traveling through the Mexican countryside, witnessing the dances of many regions, and she used her knowledge of ballet and modern dance to adapt the traditional dances to the stage. She founded her own dance company, a group that became known as El Ballet Folklórico de México. Using his signature illustration style, inspired by the ancient art of the Mixtecs, Tonatiuh tells the story of Amalia Hernández and the formation of one of the most famous and successful dance companies in the world. This is a celebration of Mexican heritage, culture, and dance that will entertain young readers and their parents.

2 copies





DIEGO RIVERA (GETTING TO KNOW THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARTISTS)

Written and illustrated by Mike Venezia. Children's Press, 1994. (Grades K-3).

A biography of the Mexican artist who wanted to bring art to the masses through the medium of murals.

1 copy

FRIDA KAHLO (GETTING TO KNOW THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARTISTS)

Written and illustrated by Mike Venezia. Children's Press, 1999. (Grades 1-4).

Discusses the life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, including her childhood, her art, and her marriage to Diego Rivera.

1 copy

FRIDA KAHLO AND HER ANIMALITOS

Written by Monica Brown and illustrated by John Parra. NorthSouth Books, 2017. (Grades K-3).

Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos is based on the life of one of the world's most influential painters, Frida Kahlo, and the animals that inspired her art and life. The fascinating Mexican artist Frida Kahlo is remembered for her self-portraits, her dramatic works featuring bold and vibrant colors. Her work brought attention to Mexican and indigenous culture and she is also renowned for her works celebrating the female form. Brown's story recounts Frida's beloved pets—two monkeys, a parrot, three dogs, two turkeys, an eagle, a black cat, and a fawn—and playfully considers how Frida embodied many wonderful characteristics of each animal.

1 copy

HARVESTING HOPE: THE STORY OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ/COSECHANDO ESPERANZA: LA HISTORIA DE CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

Written by Kathleen Krull and illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Harcourt Children's Books, 2003. (Grades 1-3).

An inspirational book about resistance and hope. When Cesar Chavez led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn't always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school.

1 English copy & 1 Spanish copy



MY NAME IS CELIA/ME LLAMO CELIA: THE LIFE OF CELIA CRUZ/LA VIDA DE CELIA CRUZ

Written by Monica Brown and illustrated by Rafael López. Cooper Square Publishing, 2004. (Grades K-3).

This bilingual book allows young readers to enter Celia Cruz's life as she becomes a well-known singer in her homeland of Cuba, then moves to New York City and Miami where she and others create a new type of music called salsa.

2 copies

MY NAME IS GABRIELA/ME LLAMO GABRIELA: THE LIFE OF/LA VIDA DE GABRIELA MISTRAL

Written by Monica Brown and illustrated by John Parra. Cooper Square Publishing, 2005. (K-3).

Gabriela Mistral loved words and sounds and stories. Born in Chile, she would grow to become the first Nobel Prize-winning Latina woman in the world. As a poet and a teacher, she inspired children across many countries to let their voices be heard. This beautifully crafted story, where words literally come to life, is told with the rhythm and melody of a poem. The second in Luna Rising's bilingual storybook biography series. My Name is Gabriela/Me llamo Gabriela is a beautiful tribute to a woman who taught us the power of words and the importance of following our dreams. The story of Gabriela Mistral will continue to inspire children everywhere.

2 copies

PABLO NERUDA: POET OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Monica Brown and illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt and Co., 2011. (Grades 1-3).

Once there was a little boy named Neftalí who loved wild things wildly and quiet things quietly. From the moment he could talk, he surrounded himself with words. Neftalí discovered the magic between the pages of books. When he was sixteen, he began publishing his poems as Pablo Neruda. Pablo wrote poems about the things he loved—things made by his friends in the café, things found at the marketplace, and things he saw in nature. He wrote about the people of Chile and their stories of struggle. Because above all things and above all words, Pablo Neruda loved people.

1 copy



SOLDIER FOR EQUALITY: JOSÉ DE LA LUZ SÁENZ AND THE GREAT WAR

Written by Duncan Tonatiuh. Harry N. Abrams, 2019. (Grades 1-3).

José de la Luz Sáenz (Luz) believed in fighting for what was right. Though born in the United States, Luz often faced prejudice because of his Mexican heritage. Determined to help his community, even in the face of discrimination, he taught school—children during the day and adults in the evenings. When World War I broke out, Luz joined the army, as did many others. His ability to quickly learn languages made him an invaluable member of the Intelligence Office in Europe. However, Luz found that prejudice followed him even to war, and despite his efforts, he often didn't receive credit for his contributions. Upon returning home to Texas, he joined with other Mexican American veterans to create the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), which today is the largest and oldest Latinx civil rights organization. Using his signature illustration style and Luz's diary entries from the war, award-winning author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh tells the story of a Mexican American war hero and his fight for equality.

2 copies

