Clap When You Land
Elizabeth Acevedo

Description:
In a novel-in-verse that brims with grief and love, National Book Award-winning and New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives. Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal’s office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—andPop’s secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And when, then, it seems like they’ve lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. For great reading or anytime. Clap When You Land is a Baby show pick for “25 children’s books your kids and teens won’t be able to put down this summer”! Plus don’t miss Elizabeth Acevedo’s The Poet X and With the Fire on High.

Author Bio:
Elizabeth Acevedo is the author of The Poet X—which won the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, the Pura Belpre Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Walter Award—as well as With the Fire on High and Clap When You Land. She is a National Poetry Slam champion and holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Maryland. Acevedo lives with her partner in Washington DC. You can find out more about her at www.acevedowriter.com.

Lost Children Archive: A novel
Valeria Luiselli

Description:
ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR; ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: THE WASHINGTON POST • TIME MAGAZINE • NPR • CHICAGO TRIBUNE • Q0 • THE OAHM MAGAZINE • THE GUARDIAN • VANITY FAIR • THE ATLANTIC • THE WEEK • THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS • LIT HUB • KIRKUS REVIEWS • THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY • BOSTON.COM • PUREWOW An epic road trip [that also] captures the tender intimacies of marriage and parenthood...This is a novel that daylight’s our common humanity, and challenges us to reconcile our differences.” —The Washington Post in Valeria Luiselli’s literary imaginative follow-up to the American Book Award-winning Tell Me How It Ends, an artist couple set out with their two children on a road trip from New York to Arizona in the heat of summer. As the family travels west, the bonds between them begin to fray: a fracture is growing between the parents, one the children can almost feel beneath their feet. Through ephemera such as songs, maps and a Polaroid camera, the children try to make sense of both their family’s crisis and the larger one engulfing the news: the stories of thousands of kids trying to cross the southwestern border into the United States but getting detained—or lost in the desert along the way. A breath-taking feat of literary virtuosity, Lost Children Archive is timely, compassionate, subtly hilarious, and formally inventive—a powerful, urgent story about what it is to be human in an inhuman world.

Author Bio:
Valeria Luiselli was born in Mexico City and grew up in South Korea, South Africa, and India. Acclaimed writer of both fiction and nonfiction, she is the author of the essay collection Sidewalks, the novels Faces in the Crowd and The Story of My Teeth; and, most recently, Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay In Forty Questions. She is the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius Grant,” the winner of two Los Angeles Times Book Prizes and an American Book Award, and has been nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award twice and the Kirkus Prize on three occasions. She has been a National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35” honoree and the recipient of a Steeping Witness Fellowship from the Art For Justice Fund. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Grant, and McSweeney’s, among other publications, and has been translated into more than twenty languages. She lives in New York City.
The House on Mango Street

By Sandra Cisneros

Description:
The bestselling coming-of-age classic, acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught in schools and universities alike, and translated around the world from the winner of the 2018 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. The House on Mango Street is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyful—Sandra Cisneros’ masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.

Author Bio:
Sandra Cisneros is a poet, short story writer, novelist and essayist whose work explores the lives of the working class. Her numerous awards include NEA fellowships in both poetry and fiction, the Texas Medal of the Arts, a MacArthur Fellowship, several honorary doctorates and national and international book awards, including Chicago's Fifth Star Award, the PEN Center USA Literary Award, and the National Medal of the Arts awarded to her by President Obama in 2010. Most recently, she received the Ford Foundation’s Art of Change Fellowship, was recognized among the Frederick Douglass 200, and was awarded the PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. Her classic, coming-of-age novel, The House on Mango Street, has sold over six million copies, has been translated into over twenty languages, and is required reading in elementary, high school, and universities across the nation.

In addition to her writing, Cisneros has fostered the careers of many aspiring and emerging writers through two non-profits she founded: the Macondo Foundation and the Alfredo Cisneros del Moral Foundation. She is also the organizer of Los Macaduritos, Latino MacArthur fellows who are community activists. Her literary papers are preserved in Texas at the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University. Sandra Cisneros is a dual citizen of the United States and Mexico and earns her living by her pen. She currently lives in San Miguel de Allende.

Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation

By Jane Addams Award Book

Duncan Tonatiuh

Description:
Seven years before Brown v. Board of Education, the Mendez family fought to end segregation in California schools. Discover their incredible story in this picture book from award-winning creator Duncan Tonatiuh. A Pure Belief:Illustrator Honor Book and Robert F. Sibert Honor Book. When her family moved to the town of Westminster, California, young Sylvia Mendez was excited about enrolling in her neighborhood school. But she and her brothers were turned away and told they had to attend the Mexican school instead. Sylvia could not understand why—she was an American citizen who spoke perfect English. Why were the children of Mexican families forced to attend a separate school? Unable to get a satisfactory answer from the school board, the Mendez family decided to take matters into its own hands and organize a lawsuit. In the end, the Mendez family’s efforts helped bring an end to segregated schooling in California in 1947, seven years before the landmark Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board of Education ended segregation in schools across America. Using his signature illustration style and incorporating his interviews with Sylvia Mendez, as well as information from court files and news accounts, award-winning author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh tells the inspiring story of the Mendez family’s fight for justice and equality.

Author Bio:
Duncan Tonatiuh was born in Mexico City and grew up in San Miguel de Allende. His books have received many awards over the years. He currently lives in San Miguel with his wife and children but travels to the US often.
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter
Erika L. Sánchez

Description:
National Book Award Finalist and best-selling author of "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" meets Jane the Virgin in this poignant but often laugh-out-loud funny contemporary YA about losing a sister and finding yourself amid lire pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican American home. Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend, L opena, and her first love (first everything), Conner, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia ever attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

Author Bio:
Erika L. Sánchez is a poet, a feminist, and a cheerleader for young women everywhere. She was the sex and love advice columnist for Cosmopolitan for Latinas for three years, and her writing has appeared in Rolling Stone, Salon, and the Paris Review. Since she was a twelve-year-old tween in giant bifocals and embroidered vests, Erika has dreamed of writing complex, empowering stories about girls of color—what she wanted to read as a young adult. She lives in Chicago, not far from the setting of I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter. Erika is fluent in Spanish, Spanglish, and cat. You can find out more about her at erikasanchez.com or by following @ErikaSanchez on Twitter.

Sabrina & Corina: Stories
Kail Fojardo-Anstine

Description:
NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • Latino/a of Indigenous descent living in the American West take center stage in this haunting debut story collection—a powerful meditation on friendship, mothers and daughters, and the deep-rooted truths of our homeland. "Here are stories that bite like wildfires, with characters who made me laugh and broke my heart."—Sandra Cisneros T FINALIST FOR THE PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection Kail Fojardo-Anstine’s magnetic story collection breathes life into her latina characters of indigenous ancestry and the land they inhabit in the American West. Against the remarkable backdrop of Denver, Colorado—a place that is as fierce as it is exquisite—these women navigate the land the way they navigate their lives: with caution, grace, and quiet force. In "Sugar Babies," anomaly and heritage are hidden inside the earth but tend to rise during land disputes. "Any Further West" follows a sex worker and her daughter as they leave their ancestral home in southern Colorado only to find a foreign and hostile land in California. In "Tama," a woman leaves prison and finds herself in a small-town city that is a shadow of the one she remembers from her childhood. And in the title story, "Sabrina & Corina," a Denver family falls into a cycle of violence against women, coming together only through ritual. Sabrina & Corina is a moving narrative of unveiling feminine power and an exploration of the universal experiences of abandonment, heritage, and an eternal sense of home. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Public Library • Kirkus Reviews • Library Journal "Sabrina & Corina isn't just good, it's masterful storytelling. Fojardo-Anstine is a fearless writer; her young, strong and scarred witnesses of the violations of their homelands, their culture, their bodies; her plots turn and surprise, unearthing and organic in their comprehensiveness; her characters break your heart, but you keep on going because you know you are in the hands of a master. Her stories move through the heart of darkness and illuminate it with the soul of truth."—Julio Alvarez, author of How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent ("A" powerhouse debut... stylistically superb, with crisp dialogue and unforgettable characters, Sabrina & Corina introduces an impressive new talent to American literature."")—Rigoberta Menchú, NBC News

Author Bio:
Kail Fojardo-Anstine is from Denver, Colorado. Her fiction has appeared in The American Scholar, Boston Review, Believer Literary Review, The Idaho Review, Southwestern American literature, and elsewhere. Fojardo-Anstine has received fellowships from MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and Hedgebrook. She received her MFA from the University of Wyoming and has lived across the country from Durango, Colorado, to Key West, Florida.
Hispanic Heritage Month Reading List

October 1st, 2020

Signs Preceding the End of the World
Yuri Herrera, Lisa Dillman
Description:
From the author of “A Silent Fury,” available Summer 2020: Signs Preceding the End of the World is one of the most arresting novels to be published in Spanish in the last ten years. Yuri Herrera does not simply write about the border between Mexico and the United States and those who cross it. He explores the crossings and translations people make in their minds and language as they move from one country to another, especially when there’s no going back. Transwending this lonely territory is Makino, a young woman who knows only too well how to survive in a violent, xenophobic world. Leaving behind her life in Mexico to search for her brother, she is smuggled into the USA carrying a pair of secret messages - one from her mother and one from the Mexican underworld.

Author Bio:
Yuri Herrera was born in Actopan, Mexico, in 1970. He received his Ph.D. for Hispanic Language and Literature from UC Berkeley. Signs Preceding the End of the World is his English-language debut novel. It was shortlisted for the Rómulo Gallegos Prize and is being published in several languages. His latest novel, The Transmigration of Souls, is forthcoming in English from And Other Stories in 2016. He is currently teaching at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Lisa Dillman is based in Atlanta, Georgia, where she translates Spanish, Catalan and Latin American writers and teaches at Emory University. Her recent translations include The First on His Shoulders by Lorenzo Medina. The Map by Juan Talavera (longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award), Me, Who Dared into the Heart of the World by Sabina Berman and Join One Madrid by Andrés Barba. She is obsessed with words, running, cooking and her dog, Moya.

The First Rule of Punk
Celia C. Pérez
Description:
A 2010 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book The First Rule of Punk is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching. There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school— you can’t fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Mala (Maria Luisa, If you want to annoy her inadvertently upset Pasada Middle School’s queen bee, violates the school’s dress code with her punk rock look, and disapponts her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself. The real Mala loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and일요일 (hold the cliantes, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Mala finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself. Book and white illustrations and collage art throughout make The First Rule of Punk a perfect pick for fans of books like Roller Girl and online magazines like Rookie. “Armed with a microphone and a pair of scissors, this book is all about creating something new and awesome in the world. Mala rocks!” —Victoria Jamieson, author and illustrator of the New York Times bestselling and Newbery Honor-winning Roller Girl

Author Bio:
Celia C. Pérez is the award-winning author of The First Rule of Punk, a 2010 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book. Celia is a longtime maker of zines inspired by her love of punk music and writing. Her favorite zine supplies are a long-arm stapler, glue sticks, and watercolor pencils. She’ll never stop picking cliantes out of her food at restaurants, and she owns two sets of worry dolls because you can never have too many. Originally from Miami, Florida, Celia lives in Chicago with her family where she works as a community college librarian.

Celia C. Pérez has been making zines inspired by punk and her love of writing for longer than some of you have been alive. Her favorite zine supplies are a long-arm stapler, glue sticks, and watercolor pencils. She still listens to punk music, and she’ll never stop picking cliantes out of her food at restaurants. Originally from Miami, Florida, Celia lives in Chicago with her family and works as a community college librarian. She owns two sets of worry dolls because you can never have too many.

The First Rule of Punk is her first book for young readers.

Author Residence: Chicago, IL

Author Hometown: Miami, FL

The Writer’s Block
http://thewritersblock.org

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Dominicana: A Novel
Angie Cruz

Description:
A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK Shortlisted for the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction, Angie Cruz’s Dominica is a vital portrait of the immigrant experience and the timeless coming-of-age story of a young woman finding her voice in the world.Fifteen-year-old Ana Canas has never dreamed of moving to America. the way the girls she grew up with in the Dominican countryside did. But when Juan Ruiz proposes and promises to take her to New York City, she has to say yes. It doesn’t matter that he is twice her age, that there is no love between them. Their marriage is an opportunity for her entire close-knit family to eventually immigrate. So on New Year’s Day, 1965, Ana leaves behind everything she knows and becomes Ana Ruiz, a wife confined to a cold six-floor walk-up in Washington Heights. Lonely and miserable, Ana hatches a reckless plan to escape. But at the bus terminal, she is stopped by Cesar, Juan’s free-spirited younger brother, who convinces her to stay. As the Dominican Republic slides into political turmoil, Juan returns to protect his family’s assets, leaving Cesar to take care of Ana. Suddenly, Ana is free to take English lessons at a local church, lie on the beach at Caney Island, see a movie at Rialto City Music Hall, go dancing with Cesar, and imagine the possibility of a different kind of life in America. When Juan returns, Ana must decide once again between her heart and her duty to her family.

Author Bio:
Angie Cruz is the author of the novels Soledad and Let It Rain Coffee, a finalist in 2007 for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. She has published short fiction and essays in magazines and journals, including The New York Times, VQR, and Gulf Coast Literary Journal. She has received numerous grants and residencies including the New York Foundation of the Arts Tennenwald, Yaddo, and The Moldawei Colony. She is founder and Editor-in-Chief of Aster (a), a literary and arts journal, and is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh.

The House of Broken Angels
Luis Alberto Urrea

Description:
In this "ravishing, moving, and necessary" story by a Pulitzer Prize finalist (San Francisco Chronicle), the De La Cruzes, a family on the Mexican-American border, celebrate two of their most beloved relatives during a joyous and bittersweet weekend. "All we do, mija, is love. Love is the answer. Nothing stops it. Not borders. Not death." In his final days, beloved and Aging patriarch Miguel Angel de la Cruz, affectionately called Big Angel, has summoned his entire clan for one last legendary birthday party. But as the party approaches, his mother, nearly one hundred, dies, transforming the weekend into a farewell doubleheader. Among the guests is Big Angel's half brother, known as Little Angel, who must reckon with the truth that although he shares a father with his siblings, he has not, as a half gingo, shared a life. Across two bitter-sweet days in their San Diego neighborhood, the relatives mingle among the palm trees and acol, celebrating the lives of Big Angel and his mother, and mourning the many inspiring tales that have passed into family lore, the acts both ordinary and heroic that brought these citizens to a fraught and sublime country and allowed them to flourish in the land they have come to call home. Teeming with brilliance and humor, authentic at every turn, The House of Broken Angels is Luis Alberto Urrea at his best, and cements his reputation as a storyteller of the first rank. "Epic... Rambunctious... Highly entertaining." -- New York Times Book Review "Intimate and touching... the stuff of legend." -- San Francisco Chronicle "An immensely charming and moving tale." -- Boston Global"nitial Bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist

Author Bio:
A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for his landmark work of nonfiction The Devil's Highway, Luis Alberto Urrea is also the bestselling author of the novels The Hummingbird’s Daughter, Into the Beautiful North, and Queen of America, as well as the story collection The Water Museum, a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist. He has won the Lambda Literary Award, an Edgar Award, and a 2017 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, among many other honors. Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, he lives outside of Chicago and teaches at the University of Illinois-Chicago.
**Native Country of the Heart: A Memoir**  
Cherrie Moraga  
Description:  
“This memoir's beauty is in its fierce intimacy.” --Roy Hoffman, The New York Times Book Review  
One of Literary Hub's Most Anticipated Books of 2019! From the celebrated editor of This Bridge Called My Back, Cherrie Moraga charts her own coming-of-age alongside her mother's decline, and also tells the larger story of the Mexican American diaspora. Native Country of the Heart: A Memoir is, at its core, a mother-daughter story. The mother, Evina, was hired out as a child, along with her siblings, by their own father to pick cotton in California’s Imperial Valley. The daughter, Cherrie Moraga, is a brilliant, pioneering, queer Latina feminist. The story of these two women, and of their people, is woven together in an intimate memoir of critical reflection and deep personal revelation. As a young woman, Evina left California to work as a cigarette girl in glamorous late 1920s Tijuana, where an ambiguous relationship with a wealthy white man taught her life lessons about power, sex, and opportunity. As Moraga charts her mother’s journey—from impressionable young girl to battle-tested matron—to, later on, an old woman suffering under the yoke of Alzheimer’s—she traces her own self-discovery of her gender-queer body and Lesbian identity, as well as her passion for activism and the history of her audacia. As her mother’s memory falls, Moraga is driven to unearth forgotten remnants of a U.S. Mexican diaspora, its indigenous origins, and an American story of cultural loss. Poetically wrought and filled with insight into intergenerational trauma, Native Country of the Heart is a reckoning with white American history and a piercing love letter from a fearless daughter to the mother she will never lose.

**Author Bio:**  
Cherrie Moraga is a writer and cultural activist whose work serves to disrupt the dominant narratives of gender, race, sexuality, feminism, indigeneity, and literature in the United States. A co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Moraga co-edited the highly influential volume This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color in 1981. After twenty years as an Artist-in-Residence at Theater at Stanford University, Moraga was appointed a professor in the Department of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2016, where, with her artistic partner Carlo Herman Rodriguez, she instituted Los Maestros Center for Xicana Indigenous Thought and Art Practice. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Theatre Playwriting Fellowship Award and a United States Artist Rockefeller Fellowship for Literature.

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**Lola Levine Is Not Mean!**  
Lola Levine #1  
Monica Brown  
Description:  
Lola Levine likes writing in her diary, sipping her mom’s cafe con leche, setting her dad’s matzah ball soup, and playing soccer with her team, the Orange Smoothies. So what if she doesn’t always fit in? Lola is fierce on the field, but when a soccer game during recess gets too competitive, she accidentally hurts her classmate Juan Gomez. Now everyone is calling her Mean Lola Levine! Lola feels terrible, but with the help of her family, her super best friend, Josh Blot, and a little “pencil power,” she just might be able to turn it all around. In this first book in a series, young readers will be inspired by Lola’s big heart and creative spirit as she learns to navigate the second grade in true Lola style!

**Author Bio:**  
Monica Brown is the author of many award-winning books for children, including Waiting for the Biblioburro and Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match! Marisol McDonald no combina. Her books have received starred reviews, Pura Belpré honors, Americas Awards, an NCTE Orbis Pictus honor, and a Christopher Award. Monica’s books are inspired by her Peruvian and Jewish heritages and her desire to bring diverse stories to children. Monica is a professor of English at Northern Arizona University. She lives in Arizona with her husband and two daughters. Her website is monicabrown.net.  
Angela Domínguez was born in Mexico City, grew up in the great state of Texas, and now lives in Brooklyn. She is the author and illustrator of Knit Together, Let’s Go, Hugel, Marie Had a Little Llama, and Santiago Stays.
Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln
Margarette Engle, Rafael López
Description:
Winner of the Pura Belpre Illustrator Award A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book in scaling words and stunning illustrations, Margarette Engle and Rafael López tell the story of "Teresa Carreño, a child prodigy who played piano for Abraham Lincoln. 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 concerts. 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 Pianist 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?"

We the Animals
Justin Torres
Description:
An exquisite, blistering debut novel! Three brothers tear their way through childhood—smashing tomatoes all over each other, building kites from trash, hiding out when their parents do battle, tippling around the house as their mother sweats off her graveyard shift. Paps and Ma are from Brooklyn—he's Puerto Rican, she's white—and their love is a serious, dangerous thing that makes and unmakes a family many times. Life in this family is fierce and absorbing, full of shocks and heartbreak and the euphoria of belonging completely to one another, from the intense familial unity felt by a child to the profound alienation he endures as he begins to see the world, this beautiful novel reinvents the coming-of-age story in a way that is sly and punch-in-the-stomach powerful. Written in magical language with unforgettable images, this is a stunning exploration of the viciously charged landscape of growing up, how deeply we are formed by our earliest bonds, and how we are ultimately propelled at escape velocity toward our futures.

Author Bio:
Margarette Engle is the Cuban American author of many books including the verse novel Your Heart, My Sky; With a Star in My Hand; The Surrender Tree, a Newbery Honor winner; and The Lightning Dreamer. Her verse memoirs include Soaring Earth and Enchanted Air, which received the Pura Belpré Award, a Writer's Dean Myers Award Honor, and was a finalist for the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction, among others. Her picture books include Drum Dream Girl: Dancing Hand; and The Flying Girl. Visit her at MargaretteEngle.com.
Rafael López was born and raised in Mexico, a place that has always influenced the vivid colors and shapes in his artwork. He now creates community-based mural projects around the world and illustrates acclaimed children's books including The Day You Begin, Brazil, Drum Dream Girl. We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands, Book Fasta!, and Dancing Hands. Rafael divides his time between Mexico and California. Visit him at RafaelLopez.com.

Author Bio:
JUSTIN TORRES is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a recent Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford. He was the recipient of a Rona Foundation Fellowship in Literature from United States Artists and the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award. His work has appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's, Granta, The House, and Glimmer Train. Among many other things, he has worked as a farmhand, a dog walker, a creative writing teacher, and a bookseller. He is now a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard.
**Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish**

**Pablo Cartaya**

**Description:**
One boy’s search for his father leads him to Puerto Rico in this moving middle grade novel, for fans of Ghost and See You in the Cosmos. Marcus Vega is six feet tall, 140 pounds, and the owner of a premature mustache. When you look like this and you’re only in the eighth grade, you’re both a threat and a target. After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marco’s mom decides it’s time for a change of environment. She takes Marco and his younger brother to Puerto Rico to spend a week with relatives they don’tremember or have never met. But Marco can’t forget knowing that his father—who walked out of their lives ten years ago—is somewhere on the island. So begins Marcus’s incredible journey, a series of misadventures that take him all over Puerto Rico in search of his elusive namesake. Marcus doesn’t know if he’ll ever find his father, but what he ultimately discovers changes his life. And he even learns a bit of Spanish along the way.

**Author Bio:**
Pablo Cartaya’s novels explore identity, place, and the spaces in-between. His debut novel about a boy standing up for his community, The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora, received three starred reviews and is a 2018 Pura Belpré Honor Book. When Pablo isn’t writing, he’s spending time with his family or dreaming of his next visit to Puerto Rico. Learn more about Pablo at pablo.cartaya.com and follow him on Twitter @pcartaya.

**Pablo Cartaya’s novels explore identity, place, and the spaces in-between.** His debut novel about a boy standing up for his community, The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora, received three starred reviews and is a 2018 Pura Belpré Honor Book. When Pablo isn’t writing, he’s spending time with his family or dreaming of his next visit to Puerto Rico. Learn more about Pablo at pablo.cartaya.com and follow him on Twitter @pcartaya.

**Author Hometown:** Coral Gables, FL

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**Lucky Broken Girl**

**Ruth Behar**

**Description:**
Winner of the 2018 Pura Belpré Award!! A book for anyone mending from childhood wounds.”—Sandra Cisneros, author of The House on Mango Street. In this unforgettable multicultural coming-of-age narrative—based on the author’s childhood in the 1960s—a young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed. Ruthie’s plight will intrigue readers, and her powerful story of strength and resilience, full of color, light, and poignancy, will stay with them for a long time. Ruthie’s mother and her family recently emigrated from Castro’s Cuba to New York City. Just when she’s finally beginning to gain confidence in her mastery of English—and enjoying her reign as her neighborhood’s hopscotch queen—a horrific car accident leaves her in a body cast and confines her to her bed for a long recovery. As Ruthie’s world shrinks because of her inability to move, her powers of observation and her heart grow larger and she comes to understand how fragile life is, how vulnerable we all are as human beings, and how friends, neighbors, and the power of the arts can sustain even the worst of times.

**Author Bio:**
Ruth Behar (www.ruthbehar.com), an acclaimed author of fiction and nonfiction, received the 2018 Pura Belpré Author Award for Lucky Broken Girl, her first book for young readers. She was born in Havana, Cuba, grew up in New York City, and has also lived in Spain and Mexico. An anthropology professor at the University of Michigan, she is the author of The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart; An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba, and Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in-between Journeys, and other books about her travels, as well as a bilingual book of poetry, Everything I Knew/Todo lo que sé. Her honors include a MacArthur “Genius” Award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Distinguished Alumna Award from Wesleyan University. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and travels frequently to Miami and Havana. Ruth Behar is an acclaimed author of adult fiction and nonfiction, and Lucky Broken Girl is her first book for young readers. She was born in Havana, Cuba, grew up in New York, and has also lived and worked in Spain and Mexico. An anthropology professor at the University of Michigan, she is also co-editor of Women Writing Culture, editor of Bridges to Cuba/Puentes a Cuba, and co-editor of The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World. Her honors include a MacArthur “Genius” Award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Senior Fellowship, and a Distinguished Alumna Award from Wesleyan University. Much in demand as a public speaker, Ruth’s speaking engagements have taken her to the United States, Canada, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Spain, Finland, Brazil, India, Ireland, Poland, England, the Netherlands, Japan, and New Zealand.

**Author Residence:** Ann Arbor, Michigan.
**Bodega Dreams**
*Vintage Contemporaries*
Ernesto Quillen

**Description:**
In a stunning narrative combining the gritty rhythms of Juanita Diaz with the noir genius of Walter Mosley, Bodega Dreams pulls us into Spanish Harlem, where the word is out: Willie Bodega is king. Need college tuition for your daughter? Start-up funds for your food stand? Bodega can help. He gives everyone a leg up, in exchange only for loyalty—and a steady income from the drugs he pushes. Lyrical, inspired, and darkly funny, this powerful debut novel brilliantly evokes the trials of China, a smart, promising young man to whom Bodega turns for a favor. China is drawn to Bodega’s street-smart idealism, but soon finds himself over his head, navigating an underworld of switchblade tempers, turnovert morality, and murder. “Bodega is a fascinating character, ... the story [Quillen’s] tells has energy and verve.” —The New York Times Book Review “Rich with eye-opening detail, [this is] a lively and entertaining work by a young writer whose talents are deserving of a wide readership.” —Oscar Hijuelos, author of *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* “A new and authentic voice of the urban Latino experience.” —Emerald Santiago, author of *When I Was Puerto Rican* [Quillen’s] ideas for using fiction to galvanize the city into confronting poverty are invigorating... blend[ing] street-smart dialogue, culturally relevant prose, and progressive politics into a noir thriller with literary merit.” —Time Out New York

**Author Bio:**
Ernesto Quillen was born in Ecuador, but arrived to New York City at eighteen months old, and was raised in El Barrio, East Harlem. Quillen is also the author of *Bodega Dreams* and *Changa’s Fire*. Quillen is an Associate Professor at Cornell University, where he teaches Creative Writing, Latino Fiction and Magical Realism, among others.

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**The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora**
*Pura Belpré Author Honor Book*
Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FALL? For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under baileyn trees. And maybe a few shifts as Junior Lunchtime Dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn’t notice the sneaky land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the words of Jose Marti. Funny, poignant and surprising, The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora is the vibrant story of a family, a striking portrait of a town, and one boy’s quest to save both, perfect for fans of *Rita Williams-Garcia*.

**Author Bio:**
Pablo Cartaya has always been a hopeless romantic. In middle school he secretly loved reading Shakespeare’s sonnets (don’t tell anyone), and he once spent his allowance on roses for a girl he liked. He also wrote her eight poems. Bad ones. He’s been writing ever since. Pablo has worked in Cuban restaurants and the entertainment industry, and he graduated with an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. All of these experiences have helped him write stories that reflect his family, culture, and love of words. Pablo lives in Miami with his wife and two kids, surrounded by sis, tios, cousins, and people who he calls cousins (but aren’t really his cousins). Learn more about Pablo at [pablocartaya.com](http://pablocartaya.com).
Shadowshaper
The Shadowshaper Cypher #1
Daniel Jose Older

Description:
Paint a mural. Start a battle. Change the world. Sierra Santiago planned to have an easy summer of making art and hanging out with her friends. But then a corpse crashes the first party of the season. Her strike-ridden grandfather starts apologizing over and over. And when the murals in her neighborhood begin to weep real tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn nuts & bolts is going on. With the help of a mysterious fellow artist named Robbie, Sierra discovers shadowshaping, a thrilling magic that infuses ancestral spirits into paintings, music, and stories. But someone is killing the shadowshapers one by one—and the killer believes Sierra is hiding their greatest secret. Now she must unravel her family’s past, take down the killer in the present, and save the future of shadowshaping for herself and generations to come. Full of a joyful, defiant spirit and written as luminous as a Brooklyn summer night, Shadowshaper marks the YA debut of a brilliant new storyteller.

Author Bio:
Daniel Jose Older is a Brooklyn-based writer, editor, workshop facilitator, and composer. Shadowshaper is his first published YA novel. His band Ghost Sight is based in New York, and you can find his thoughts on writing, recital dispatches from his decade long career as an NYC pedicab driver, and hear his music at danieljoseolder.com.

Merci Suarez Changes Gears
Merci Suarez
Meg Medina

Description:
Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal! Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between in a resonant new novel from Meg Medina. Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Rolli, are scholarship students. They don’t have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when dashing Edwin Santos sets his sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci’s school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edwin’s petulance. Things aren’t going well at home, either—Merci’s grandfather and most trusted ally, Lalo, has been acting strangely lately—forgetting important things, falling off his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what’s going on, so she’s left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school. In a coming-of-age tale full of humor and wisdom, award-winning author Meg Medina gets to the heart of the confusion and constant change that defines middle school—and the steadfast connection that defines family.

Author Bio:
Meg Medina is the author of the Newbery Medal-winning book Merci Suarez Changes Gears, which was also a 2018 Kirkus Prize finalist. Her young adult novels include Yaqui Delgada Wants to Kick Your Ass, which won the 2014 Pura Belpré Author Award; Burn Baby Burn, which was long-listed for the National Book Award, and The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind. She is also the author of picture books Mango, Abuela, and Me, illustrated by Angeles Dominguez, which was a Pura Belpré Author Honor Book, and Tia Isa Wants a Car, illustrated by Claudette Muñoz, which won the Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award. The daughter of Cuban immigrants, she grew up in Queens, New York, and now lives in Richmond, Virginia. Meg Medina is the author of the YA novels Burn Baby Burn; Yaqui Delgada Wants to Kick Your Ass, winner of the Pura Belpré Author Award; and The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind. She also wrote the picture books Mango, Abuela, and Me, a Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Honor Book, and Tia Isa Wants a Car, recipient of an Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award. She lives in Richmond, Virginia.
**When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir**

A Merloyd Lawrence Book  
Emerald Santiago  

**Description:**  
One of "The Best Memoirs of a Generation" (Oprah's Book Club): a young woman's journey from the mango groves and barracas of Puerto Rico to Brooklyn, and eventually on to Harvard. In a childhood full of tropical beauty and domestic strife, poverty and tenderness, Emerald Santiago learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs, the taste of meriña, and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. But when her mother, Momi, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Emerald, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually a new identity. In the first of her three acclaimed memoirs, Emerald brilliantly recreates her tremendous journey from the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years, to translating for her mother at the welfare office, and to high honors at Harvard.

**Author Bio:**  
Emerald Santiago is the author of two memoirs, When I Was Puerto Rican and The Turkish Lover, and the novel Conquistadora. A resident of Westchester County, New York, she is married to filmaker Frank Center and is the mother of two adult children, jazz guitarist Lucos and Abe.

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**Where We Come From: A novel**

Oscar Casares  

**Description:**  
ONE OF KIRKUS REVIEWS' BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: "A richly conceived and devastating book about the border." —Houston Chronicle
F rom a distance, the towns along the U.S.-Mexican border have dangerous reputations, and Brownsville is no different. But to twelve-year-old Ony, it's simply where his grandmother Nina lives—and where he is being forced to stay the summer after his mother's sudden death. Nina, however, has a secret: she's providing refuge for a young immigrant boy named Daniel, for whom traveling to America has meant trading one set of dangers for another. Separated from the violent human traffickers who brought him across the border and pursued by the authorities, Daniel must stay completely hidden. And Ony's arrival threatens to put them all at risk of exposure. Tackling the crisis of U.S. immigration policy from a deeply human angle, Where We Come From explores through an intense lens the ways that family history shapes us, how secrets can burden us, and how finding compassion and understanding for others can ultimately set us free.

**Author Bio:**  
Oscar Casares is the author of Brownsville, a collection of stories that was an American Library Association Notable Book, and the novel Amigoland. He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Copernicus Society of America, and the Texas Institute of Letters. Originally from Brownsville, he now lives in Austin with his family and teaches creative writing at the University of Texas at Austin.

Oscar Casares is the author of Brownsville, a collection of stories that was an American Library Association Notable Book, and the novel Amigoland. He is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Copernicus Society of America, and the Texas Institute of Letters. Originally from Brownsville, he now lives in Austin with his family and teaches creative writing at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Author Hometown:** Brownsville, Texas
The Mortifications: A Novel
Derek Palacio

Description:
Derek Palacio’s stunning, mythic novel marks the arrival of a fresh voice and a new chapter in the history of 21st century Cuban-American literature. In 1980, a rural Cuban family is torn apart during the Mariel Boatlift. Ubaldo Encarnaciones—father, husband, political insurgent—refuses to leave behind the revolutionary ideals and lush tomato farms of his sun-soaked homeland. His wife Soledad takes young Isabel and Ulises hostage and flees with them to America, leaving behind Ubaldo for the promise of a better life. But instead of settling with fellow Cuban immigrants in Miami’s trailer park, Soledad pushes further north into the stark, wintry landscape of Hartford, Connecticut. There, in the long shadow of their estranged patriarch, now just a distant memory, the ailed mother and her children begin a process of growth and transformation. Each struggles and flourishes in their own way: Isabel, spiritually hungry and desperate for higher purpose, finds herself tethered to death and the dying in uncanny ways. Ulises is bookish and awkwardly tall, like his father, whose memory haunts and shapes the boy’s thoughts and desires. Presiding over them both is Soledad. Once consumed by her love for her father, she begins a tempestuous new relationship with a Dutch tobacco farmer. But just as the Encarnaciones begin to cultivate their strange new way of life, Cuba calls them back. Ubaldo is alive, and waiting. Breathtaking, soulful, and profound, The Mortifications is an interwoven family saga and a timely, urgent expression of longing for one’s true homeland.

Author Bio:
Derek Palacio received his MFA in Creative Writing from the Ohio State University. His short story “Sugarcoats” appeared in The O. Henry Prize Stories 2013, and his novel No Viole el Césped was published by Nuevo Libros, Inc. He lives and teaches in Ann Arbor, MI, is the co-director, with Claire Vaye Watkins, of the Mijas School, and serves as a faculty member of the Institute of American Indian Arts MFA program.

Author Residence: Ann Arbor, MI

Night at the Fiestas: Stories
Kirstin Valdez Quade

Description:
Winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize Finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Award “A sparkling debut collection...featuress dreamers and schemers whose lives pulsate with wild hopes, hard luck, stunning secrets, and saving grace.”—Elle With intensity and emotional precision, Kirstin Valdez Quade’s unforgettable stories plunge us into the fierce, troubled hearts of characters defined by the desire to escape the past or else to plunge its depths. The deadbeats father of a pregnant teenager tries to transform his life by playing the role of Jesus in a bloody penitential Passion. A young man discovers that his estranged father and a boo constrictor have been squeezing in his grandfather’s empty house. A lonely retiree new to Santa Fe becomes obsessed with her housekeeper. One girl attempts to uncover the mystery of her cousin’s violent past, while another young woman finds herself in an impasse when she is asked to hear her priest’s confession. Always hopeful, these stories chart the passions and obligations of family life, exploring themes of race, class, and coming-of-age, as Quade’s characters protect, betray, wound, undermine, bolster, define, and, ultimately, save each other.

Author Bio:
Kirstin Valdez Quade is the author of Night at the Fiestas, winner of the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Prize. The recipient of a “5 Under 35” award from the National Book Foundation, she teaches at Princeton University.

Kirstin Valdez Quade has received a “5 Under 35” award from the National Book Foundation as well as the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award and the 2013 Narrative Prize. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, Narrative, The Best American Short Stories, The O. Henry Prize Stories, and elsewhere. She was a Wallace Stegner Fellow and Jones Lecturer at Stanford University and is currently the Nicholas Delbono Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan.
**Hispanic Heritage Month Reading List**

*In Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos*
Lulu Delacre

**Description:**
Beautifully written with candor, honesty, and perfect brevity. A collection not to be missed. (Booklist starred review) This middle grade novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 7 to 8, especially during homeschooling. It's a fun way to keep your child entertained and engaged while not in the classroom. Acclaimed author and Pura Belpré Award honoree Lulu Delacre’s beautifully illustrated collection of twelve short stories is a groundbreaking look at the diverse Latinos who live in the United States. In this book, you will meet many young Latinos living in the United States, from a young girl whose day at her father’s buri truck surprises her to two sisters working together to change the older sister’s immigration status, and more. Turn the pages to experience life through the eyes of these boys and girls whose families originally hail from many different countries; see their hardships, celebrate their victories, and come away with a better understanding of what it means to be Latino in the U.S. Today.

- A Kirkus Best Book of 2017
- A New York Public Library Best Book of 2017
- A Los Angeles Public Library Best Book of 2017
- A 2017 Maloac Penne Award for Human Rights in Children’s Literature Honor Book
- A Bankstreet Top 10 Diverse Fiction for Older and Middle Readers
- CCBC Choices Pick of 2018
- CBC Notable in Social Studies

**Author Bio:**
Three-time Pura Belpré Award honoree Lulu Delacre has been writing and illustrating children’s books since 1985. Born and raised in Puerto Rico to Argentinian parents, Delacre says her Latino heritage and her life experiences inform her work. Her 37 titles include *In Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos; Arroz con Leche; Popular Songs and Rhymes from Latin America; and A Horn Book Fanfare Book in print for over 25 years; and Salas Stories, an IRA Outstanding International Book. Her latest picture book (Olínguito, de la A a la Z) Descubriendo el bosque nublado; Olinguito, from A to Z) Unveiling the Cloud Forest has received 28 awards and honors including an NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor and an ALA Notable for All Ages. Delacre has lectured internationally and served as a juror for the National Book Awards. She has exhibited at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art; The Original Art Show at the Society of Illustrators in New York; the Museum of Art of Puerto Rico and the Museum of Fine in Puerto Rico among other venues. More at www.luludelacre.com.

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*The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*
Sonia Manzano

**Description:**
A powerful novel from one of America’s most influential Hispanics — “Maria” on Sesame Street. There are two sisters: Evelyn Serrano is keeping from her Mimi and Pope her true feelings about growing up in her Spanish Harlem neighborhood, and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother who’s come from Puerto Rico to live with them. Then, like an urgent ticking clock, events erupt that change everything. The Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, dump garbage in the street and set it on fire, igniting a powerful protest. When Abuela steps in to take charge, Evelyn is thrust into the action. Temperatures flare, loyalties are tested. Through it all, Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage and the history makers who shaped a nation. Infused with actual news accounts from the time period, Sonia Manzano has crafted a gripping work of fiction based on her own life growing up during a fiery, unforgettable time in America, when young Latinos took control of their destinies.

**Author Bio:**
SONIA MANZANO has attracted the lives of millions since the early 1970s, as the actress who defined the role of “Maria” on the acclaimed television series Sesame Street. Sonia has won fifteen Emmy Awards for her television work and is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Arts and Sciences. People magazine named Sonia one of America’s most influential Hispanics. This is Sonia's first novel. She lives in New York City.
**Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism**
Laura E. Gómez

*Description:*
A timely and groundbreaking argument that all Americans must grapple with Latinos’ dynamic racial identity—because it impacts everything we think we know about race in America. Latinos have long influenced everything from electoral politics to popular culture, yet many people instinctively regard them as recent immigrants rather than a longstanding racial group. In *Inventing Latinos*, Laura Gómez, a leading expert on race, law, and society, illuminates the fascinating race-making, unmaking, and re-making of Latino identity that has spanned centuries, leaving a permanent imprint on how race operates in the United States today. Pulling back the lens on the country approaches an unprecedented demographic shift (Latinos will comprise a third of the American population in a matter of decades). Gómez also reveals the nefarious ways the United States has played in Latin America—from military interventions and economic exploitation to political interference—that, when taken together, have destabilized national economies and sent migrants northward over the course of more than a century. It’s no coincidence that the vast majority of Latinos migrate from the places most impacted by this nation’s dirty deeds, leading Gómez to a bold call for reparations. In this audacious effort to reframe the often-confused and misrepresented discourse over the Latino generation, Gómez provides essential context for today’s most pressing political and public debates—representation, voice, interpretation, and power—giving all of us a brilliant framework to engage cultural controversies, elections, current events, and more.

**Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America**
Juan Gonzalez

*Description:*
A sweeping history of the Latino experience in the United States thoroughly revised and updated. The first new edition in ten years of this important study of Latinos in U.S. history, *Harvest of Empire* spans five centuries—from the first New World colonies to the first decade of the new millennium. Latinos are now the largest minority group in the United States, and their impact on American popular culture—from food to entertainment to literature—is greater than ever. Featuring family portraits of real-life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave their homelands, *Harvest of Empire* is required reading for anyone wishing to understand the history and legacy of this increasingly influential group.

**Author Bio:**
Laura E. Gómez is a professor of law, sociology, and Chicana/O Chicano studies at UCLA. She is the author of *Inventing Latinos* (The New Press) as well as *Manzanar Destinos, Mapping Race, and Misrepresenting Mothers*. She lives in Los Angeles.

**Author Bio:**
Juan González is one of this country’s best-known Latino journalists. He was a staff columnist for New York’s Daily News from 1987 to 2016 and has been a co-host since 1996 of Democracy Now! He is the author of *Harvest of Empire, News for All the People, Fallout, and Reclaiming Gotham*. Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, he was raised in East Harlem and Brooklyn, New York."
The Inexplicable Logic of My Life
Benjamin Alire Saenz

Description:
A "mesmerizing, poetic exploration of family, friendship, love and loss" from the acclaimed author of Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe. (New York Times Book Review) Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it's senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. If Sal's not who he thought he was, who is he? This humor-infused, warmly humane look at universal questions of belonging is a triumph.

Author Bio:
Multi-award winning novelist and poet Benjamin Alire Saenz is the author of several acclaimed books for teens, including the much-lauded Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe. He lives in El Paso, TX. Follow him on Twitter @BenjaminAlireSa.