

Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP)

**2009**  
**Américas Award**  
for  
Children's and Young Adult Literature

The Américas Award is given in recognition of U.S. works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected non-fiction (from picture books to works for young adults) published in the previous year in English or Spanish that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. By combining both and linking the Americas, the award reaches beyond geographic borders, as well as multicultural-international boundaries, focusing instead upon cultural heritages within the hemisphere. The award is sponsored by the national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP).

The award winners and commended titles are selected for their 1) distinctive literary quality; 2) cultural contextualization; 3) exceptional integration of text, illustration and design; and 4) potential for classroom use. The winning books will be honored at a ceremony (fall 2009) during Hispanic Heritage Month at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**2009 Américas Award Winners**

**Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book** by Yuyi Morales.  
Roaring Brook Press (A Neal Porter Book), 2008. 32 pgs. ISBN 978-1-59643-329-8

**The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom** by Margarita Engle.  
Holt, 2008. 169 pgs. ISBN 978-0-8050-8674-4

**Américas Award Honorable Mentions**

**The Best Gift of All: The Legend of La Vieja Belén / El Mejor Regalo del Mundo: La Leyenda de la Vieja Belén** by Julia Alvarez. Illustrated by Ruddy Nuñez.  
Alfaguara/Santillana, 2008. 32 pgs. ISBN 978-1-60396-325-1

**Dark Dude** by Oscar Hijuelos. Atheneum, 2008. 440 pgs. 978-1-4169-4804-9

**The Storyteller's Candle / La velita de los cuentos** by Lucía González. Illustrated by Lulu Delacre. Children's Book Press, 2008. 32 pgs. ISBN 978-0-89239-222-3

## Américas Award Commended Titles

**Animal Poems of the Iguazú/Animalario del Iguazú** by Francisco X. Alarcón. Illustrated by Maya Christina González. Children's Book Press, 2008. 32 pgs. ISBN 978-0-89239-225-4

**Arco Iris de Poesía: Poemas de las Américas y España** selected by Sergio Andricaín. Illustrated by Olga Cuellar. Lectorum, 2008. 40pgs. ISBN 978-1-930332-59-1

**Baila, Nana, Baila / Dance, Nana, Dance: Cuban Folktales in English and Spanish** retold by Joe Hayes. Illustrated by Mauricio Trenard Sayago. Cinco Puntos, 2008. 128 pgs. ISBN 978-1-933693-17-0

**Cesar Chavez: Crusader for Social Change** by Brenda Haugen. Compass Point, 2008. 112 pgs. 978-0-7565-3321-2

**The Disappeared** by Gloria Whelan. Dial / Penguin, 2008. 136 pgs. 978-0-8037-3275-9

**Divali Rose** by Vashanti Rahaman. Illustrated by Jamel Akib. Boyds Mills, 2008. 32 pgs.

**Dolores Huerta: Labor Leader and Civil Rights Activist** by Robin S. Doak. Compass Point, 2008. 112 pgs. 978-0-7565-3477-6

**Down to the Bone** by Mayra Lazara Dole. HarperCollins, 2008. 351 pgs. 978-0-06-084311-3

**Facts of Life** by Gary Soto. Harcourt, 2008. 174 pgs. 978-0-15-206181-4

**He Forgot to Say Goodbye** by Benjamin Alire Sáenz. Simon & Schuster, 2008. 321 pgs. 978-1-4169-4963-3

**Kitchen Dance** by Maurie J. Manning. Clarion. 2008. 32 pgs. ISBN 978-0-618-99110-5

**Pablo (Cuando los Grandes Eran Pequeños)** by Georgina Lázaro. Illustrated by Marcela Donoso. Lectorum, 2008. 32 pgs. ISBN 978-1-930332-09-2

**Peace Jam: A Billion Simple Acts of Peace** by Ivan Suvanjiëff and Dawn Gifford Engle. Puffin/Penguin, 2008. 197 pgs. ISBN 978-0-14-241234-3

**A Perfect Season for Dreaming / Un tiempo perfecto para soñar** by Benjamin Alire Sáenz. Illustrated by Esau Andrade Valencia. Cinco Puntos, 2008. 36 pgs. ISBN 978-1-933693-01-9

**Reaching Out** by Francisco Jiménez. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. 194 pgs. 978-0-618-03851-0

**The Secret Legacy** by Rigoberta Menchú. Illustrated by Domi. Groundwood, 2008. 64 pgs. ISBN 978-0-88899-896-5

**The Smell of Old Lady Perfume** by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez. Cinco Puntos, 2008. 249 pgs. 978-1-933693-18-7

**Voices in First Person: Reflections on Latino Identity** by Lori Marie Carlson. Photographs by Manuel Rivera-Ortiz. Illustrated by Flavio Morais. Atheneum, 2008. 84 pgs. ISBN 978-1-4169-0635-3

**The Walls of Cartagena** by Julia Durango. Illustrated by Tom Pohrt. Simon & Schuster, 2008. 150 pgs. 978-1-4169-4102-6

**What Can You Do With a Rebozo?** by Carmen Tafolla. Illustrated by Amy Córdova. Tricycle Press, 2008. 28 pgs. ISBN 978-1-58246-220-2

**Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature  
Review Committee**

Kristel Foster (Sunnyside Unified School District, Arizona)  
Jamie Campbell Naidoo (University of Alabama)  
Hollis Rudiger (Madison, Wisconsin)  
Elena Gibbons Serapiglia (Yale University, Connecticut)  
Patricia Velasco, chairperson (Teachers College, Columbia University, New York)

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