

III Cerlalc-IBBY

Catalogue of children's books for sustainable development



III Cerlalc-IBBY

Catalogue of children's books for sustainable development



cerlalc
Centro Regional para el
Fomento del Libro en América
Latina y el Caribe



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia
Ministry of National Education of Colombia
Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Knowledge of
Colombia
Chair of the Council

Margareth Menezes
Minister of Culture of Brazil, Chair of the Council

Ernest Urtasun Domenèch
Minister of Culture of Spain, Chair of the Executive
Committee

Margarita Cuéllar Barona
Director

Francisco Thaine
Deputy Director-General

María Fernanda de la Ossa
Secretary-General

Jeimy Hernández Toscano
Technical Director of Reading, Writing, and Libraries

José Diego González
Technical Director of the Publishing Ecosystem

Bazarat Kazim
President

Carolina Ballester
Executive Director

Hazel Hernández Astorga
Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean

Published by

**Regional Center for the Promotion of Books in
Latin America and the Caribbean – Cerlalc
2025**

Calle 70 n° 9-52

Tel. (57-1) 518 70 70

cerlalc@cerlalc.org

www.cerlalc.org

Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

ISBN: 978-958-671-292-7

Editorial coordination

Lorena Panche

Reading, Writing, and Libraries Management – CERLALC

Selection of titles and review contributors

Asociación de Literatura Infantil y Juvenil de la Argentina-ALIJA

Fundación Nacional del Libro Infantil y Juvenil-FNLIJ

IBBY Chile

Fundalectura

Fundación Leer – IBBY Costa Rica

IBBY Cuba

Girándula, Asociación Ecuatoriana del Libro Infantil y Juvenil

IBBY Guatemala

IBBY México

Centro de Documentación e Información de Literatura Infantil -CEDILI

IBBY República Dominicana

IBBY Uruguay

Banco del Libro de Venezuela

Communications Coordinator

Daniela Abella Afanador

Cover Illustration

Vicky Ramos

Layout

Daniela Duarte

Design

Natalia Ayala Pacini

estudiocasual.co



This document is published under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (3.0) (CC BY-NC-ND) license.



III Cerlalc-IBBY

Catalogue of children's books for sustainable development

11 ➤ Argentina

12 A wide open house

13 Seven Girls

14 Scientist Women from here: stories that change the history

15 Elisa, the unexpected rose

16 ➤ Brazil

17 Abcdelas

18 Enreduana

19 In my backyard... The Children's Play from North to South

20 The Nighth's Mouth

21 Nós: An Anthology of Indigenous Literature

22 ➤ Chile

23 A New Neighborhood

24 My name is Millaray

25 Mom's Shoes

26 Enmirlada

27 9 Kilometers

28 ➤ Colombia

29 Blue Mountains

30 Albina

31 We are the Same

32 Cazucá

33 The Two Lunas' Diary

34 ➤ Costa Rica

35 Juana Dares

36 The Tapir on the Runway

37 The Inventor of Clouds

38 Pachi, the Chameleon who understood its own Beauty

39 ➤ Cuba

40 Law of Gravity

41 The Every Day Wonder – My Book of Memories

42 Four Friends

43 Butterflies in the Stomach

44 ➤ Ecuador

45 Home

46 Antology: Stories for the Youngest

47 Hostel for Butterflies

48 Antology: The Long Hug Stories

49 ➤ Guatemala

50 More Adventures of Ixtz'unun

51 The Red Path

52 TAN

53 ➤ Mexico

54 I am 14 years old and it is no Good News

55 Feminism? So What?

56 Who is going to kill the mouse?

57 Savages

58

➤ Peru

-
- | | |
|----|---|
| 59 | One story and one song |
| 60 | Karuara. The People from the River |
| 61 | Migrants |
| 62 | Once upon a time there was a Peruvian Woman |
-

63

➤ Dominican Republic

-
- | | |
|----|---|
| 64 | 'F' for Friend |
| 65 | To Make your Voice Heard |
| 66 | Outstanding Dominican Women: 150 Women who Changed Dominican Republic |
-

67

➤ Uruguay

-
- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 68 | Big |
| 69 | Handbook of Animal Beauty |
| 70 | The Big Race |
| 71 | Cordon Soho |
-

72

➤ Venezuela

-
- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 73 | Aunt Berta |
| 74 | Alternatives for the End of the World |
| 75 | Nani's Visits |
| 76 | The Native Little Riding Hood |
-

III Cerlalc-IBBY Catalogue of children's books for sustainable development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the primary global framework guiding countries in their collective efforts to build a more just and equitable world for both present and future generations. This instrument is crucial for fostering international cooperation and ensuring long-term sustainable development.

However, like many multilateral agreements, the 2030 Agenda often remains outside the scope of public interest—or worse, many citizens are simply unaware of its existence. This disconnect is not so much a reflection on citizens themselves but rather a symptom of the challenges faced by multilateral organizations, governments, and civil society in making the agenda more accessible. Despite its direct impact on people's lives, the public remains largely disconnected from it—when, in fact, they should be actively engaged in holding institutions accountable and demanding progress.

This challenge becomes even greater when it comes to raising awareness and fostering reflection on the 2030 Agenda among younger populations, particularly children. However, as the United Nations has empha-

sized, the 2030 Agenda serves as a vital roadmap for navigating a world in crisis, and its implementation represents an opportunity that must not be overlooked. Therefore, it is essential that children—who must be equipped to fully exercise their citizenship and advocate for their rights—develop a sense of ownership over this roadmap.

This is where this catalogue—a joint initiative of the Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Cerlalc) and the Latin American and Caribbean section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)—takes on special significance. It offers teachers, librarians, and reading mediators a selection of titles published in the thirteen participating countries, each addressing different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This third edition features 53 titles published in Latin American countries over the past decade. Through diverse literary styles and approaches, these works explore themes of inclusion and equity, with a particular emphasis on gender equality. They serve as a valuable tool for introducing children to Goals 5 and 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, encouraging

their deliberative and critical participation in democracy.

The catalogue is particularly relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean, the most unequal region in the world, where the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a social crisis that deepened already severe disparities. According to ECLAC, in 2022, 13% of the Latin American population was living in extreme poverty. The health crisis had a particularly devastating impact on younger populations, depriving them of access to basic services, threatening their food security, and disrupting their education.

The full impact on human development in the region is only beginning to be measured, but its effects have been felt most acutely by vulnerable groups, including Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities, residents of rural and remote areas, and those experiencing forced migration.

In this context, the numerous factors driving social, educational, economic, and gender inequalities not only pose a serious threat to the well-being of children and youth but also risk deepening existing disparities and perpetuating them into the future. Therefore, it is crucial to raise children's awareness of these inequalities and the exclusion faced by various sectors of the population in the region.

If the central premise of the 2030 Agenda—leaving no one behind—is to be fully realized in our countries, it is essential to address another critical issue: the recognition and

participation of girls and women in all spheres of society.

While Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress in this area, the region still records some of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world. Additionally, the unequal distribution of domestic and unpaid care work, along with the underrepresentation of women in key sectors such as science, technology, and innovation, continues to hinder economic and social development in the region.¹

We firmly believe that the power of spoken and written words is essential for children to expand their understanding of their own reality and to engage with other realities through a critical and reflective lens. This, in turn, better equips them to actively contribute to the creation of more just, equitable, and sustainable societies.

This catalogue recognizes the quality of the selected works and highlights their relevance in promoting inclusion, equity, and justice. Addressing economic and social inequalities requires a comprehensive approach that integrates culture, art, and education. Encouraging collective collaboration is essential to shedding light on these inequalities and creating pathways toward the full inclusion of all citizens.

The works featured in the Cerlalc-IBBY Catalogue of Children's Books for Sustainable Development reflect this commitment, reaffirming both institutions' dedication to fostering a more just and equitable future for all.

¹ UN Women estimates that only 2 out of 10 jobs in engineering, science, and technology are held by women, highlighting that, despite progress, significant efforts are still needed to achieve gender parity in all spheres of economic and social life. For further details, see UN Women (2022), *Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Gender Outlook 2022*, available at:

The selection of books was entrusted to the national sections of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) across Latin America and the Caribbean. These organizations serve as national reference points in children's and young adult literature. With their established practice of compiling highly regarded recommended reading lists, these bodies possess comprehensive knowledge of current children's publishing offerings, both domestic and international.

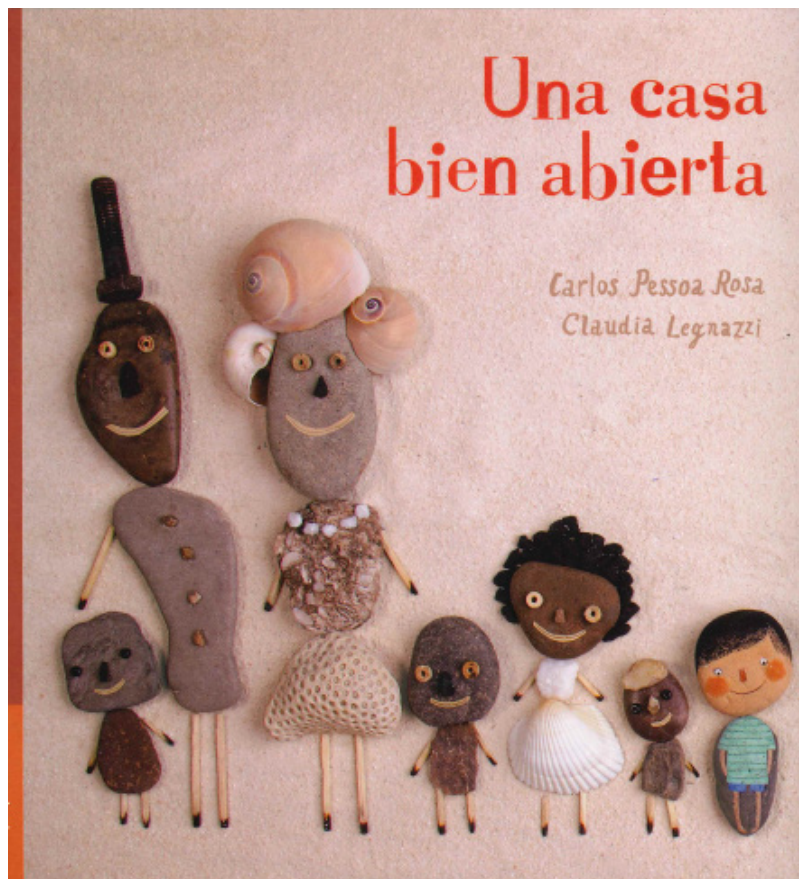
The selection methodology, developed collaboratively by Cerlalc and IBBY, adhered to stringent criteria emphasizing literary and editorial quality, along with content accuracy and depth for informational texts. A critical selection criterion was thematic relevance to Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Particularly important was how these works approached these goals from an artistic and literary perspective that prioritizes readers' interpretive freedom, avoiding didactic or moralizing approaches. Rather than presenting singular answers or perspectives on inclusion and equity, the selected works offer diverse questions and viewpoints that encourage critical thinking and open dialogue.

Through this catalogue, Cerlalc and IBBY LAC aim to showcase the vital role of children's books and reflective reading in helping children, families, and communities envision new possibilities—to imagine and build a just society where everyone has a place.

Argentina





A wide open house

Surrounded by stars, stones, driftwood, and seashells, a small boy plays as if the sea and the beach are his entire world. But he is alone wandering, growing. He spells the word home, imagines it, says it aloud, draws it in the sand, and finally shouts it. The word becomes a longing. What he truly needs is a home and a family. This moving story is accompanied by deeply sensitive and original illustrations.

Author(s)

Carlos Pessoa Rosa

Illustrator(s)

Claudia Legnazzi

Publisher

Pequeño Editor

Year of Publication

2014

ISBN

9789871374298

Genre

Poetry

Reading Level

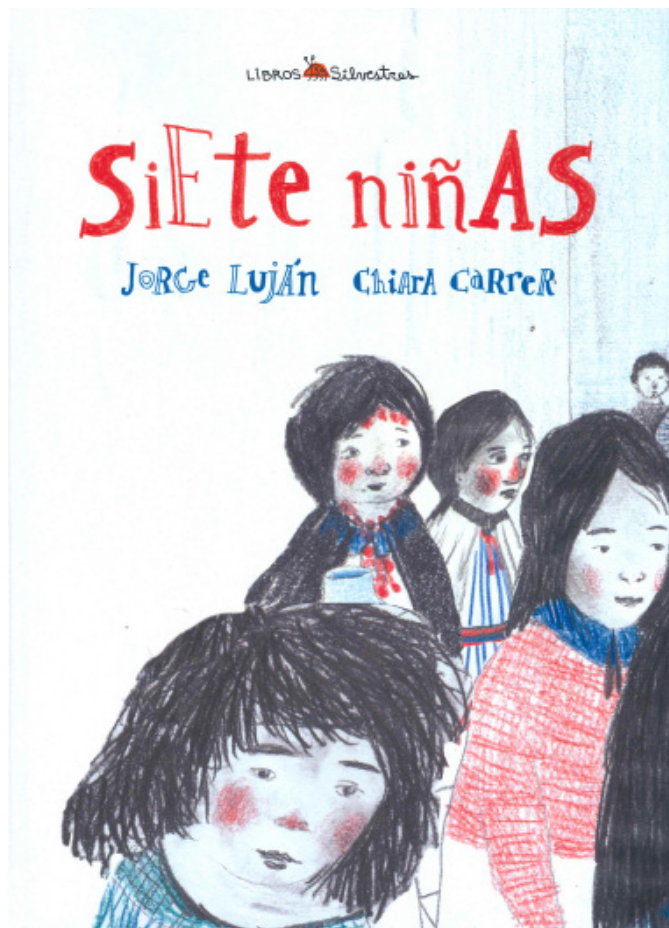
Young readers

Number of Pages

32

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Seven Girls

This story of seven girls—among millions of young girls in our poor and unequal Latin America—follows their lives from Argentina to the United States, passing through Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela, and El Salvador. They endure hunger, violence, and marginalization. Many are forced to leave school to work, walk long distances to fetch water, or beg.

Author(s):
Jorge Luján

Illustrator(s):
Chiara Carrer

Publisher
Libros Silvestres

Year of Publication
2022

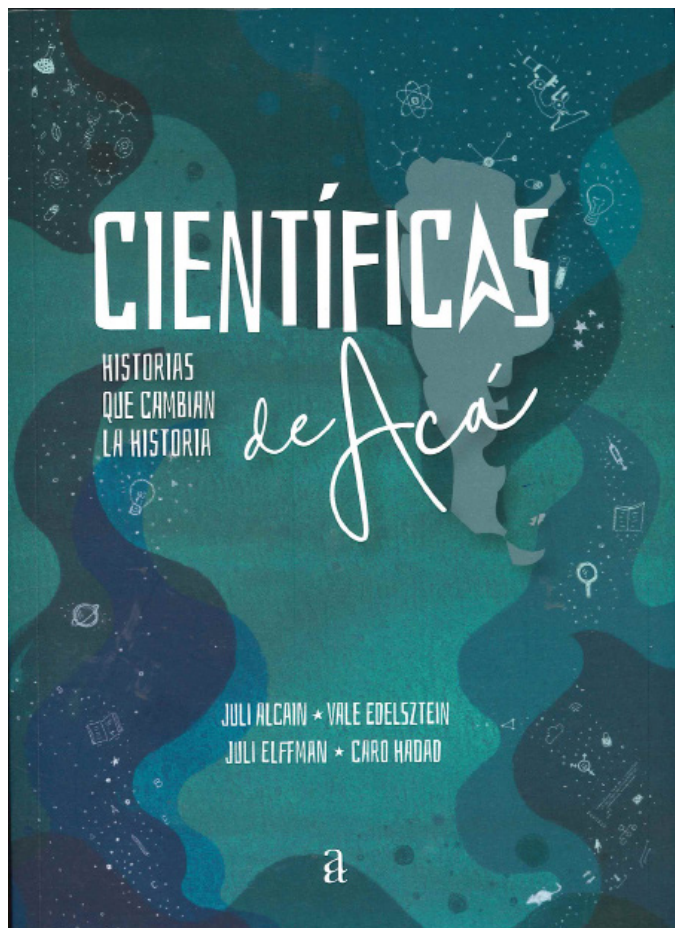
ISBN
9789874864659

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Young readers |
Independent readers

Number of Pages
40

Associated SDGs
5 – Gender Equality
10 – Reduced Inequalities



Scientist Women from here: stories that change the history

How many Argentine women scientists can you name? None? Just a few? Local Women Scientists is a project created to highlight the women who have worked—and continue to work—in science and technology in Argentina. The book introduces readers to the diversity within the country's research field and showcases the significant contributions of women's thinking and professional achievements in a wide range of areas: astronomy, physics, biology, sociology, engineering, computing, and meteorology. The professional and personal stories of many scientists from different regions and historical periods come together here to celebrate the vital and ongoing role of women in science.

Author(s):

Julieta Alcain, Valeria Edelsztein, Julieta Elffman, Carolina Hadad

Illustrator(s):

Andrea Cingolani, Aymar  Mont, Agustina Lemoine, Luchi Soler

Publisher

Tantaagua

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9789878690063

Genre

Informational

Reading Level

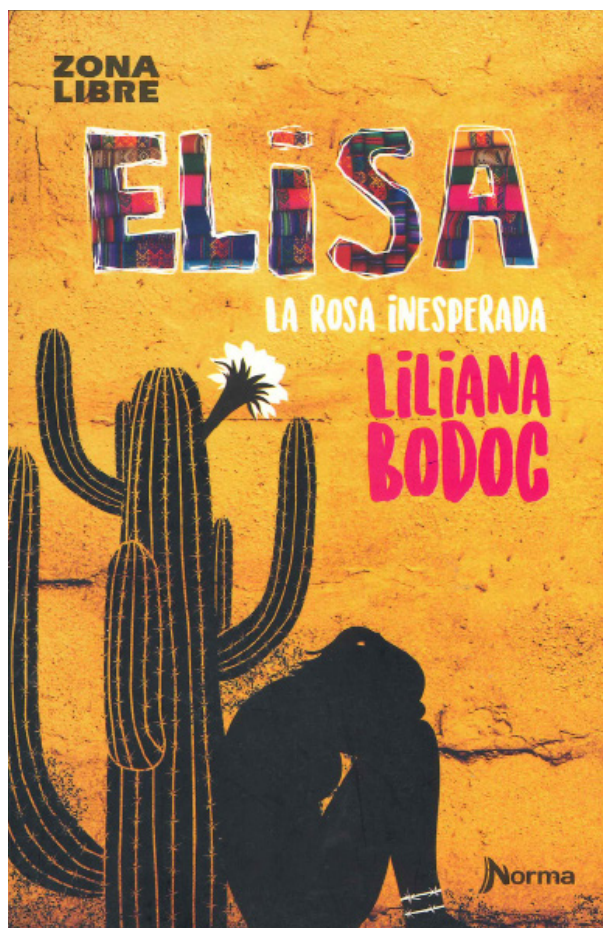
Independent readers

Number of Pages

248

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Elisa, the unexpected rose

Elisa is 14 years old and lives with her family in a precarious home in a low-income neighborhood in the province of Santa Fe. When her parents leave, she is cared for by her grandmother, Rufina. The young girl begins working as an ironing assistant. Some time later, an invitation from an aunt to live with her in Jujuy takes her north, where she encounters situations that are as unexpected as they are disturbing. The search for happiness, the awakening of sexuality, self-discovery, and the formation of identity during adolescence are some of the themes explored in this book, which also addresses human trafficking and sexual violence.

Author(s):
Liliana Bodoc

Illustrator(s):
Liliana Bodoc

Publisher
Norma

Year of Publication
2017

ISBN
9789875457225

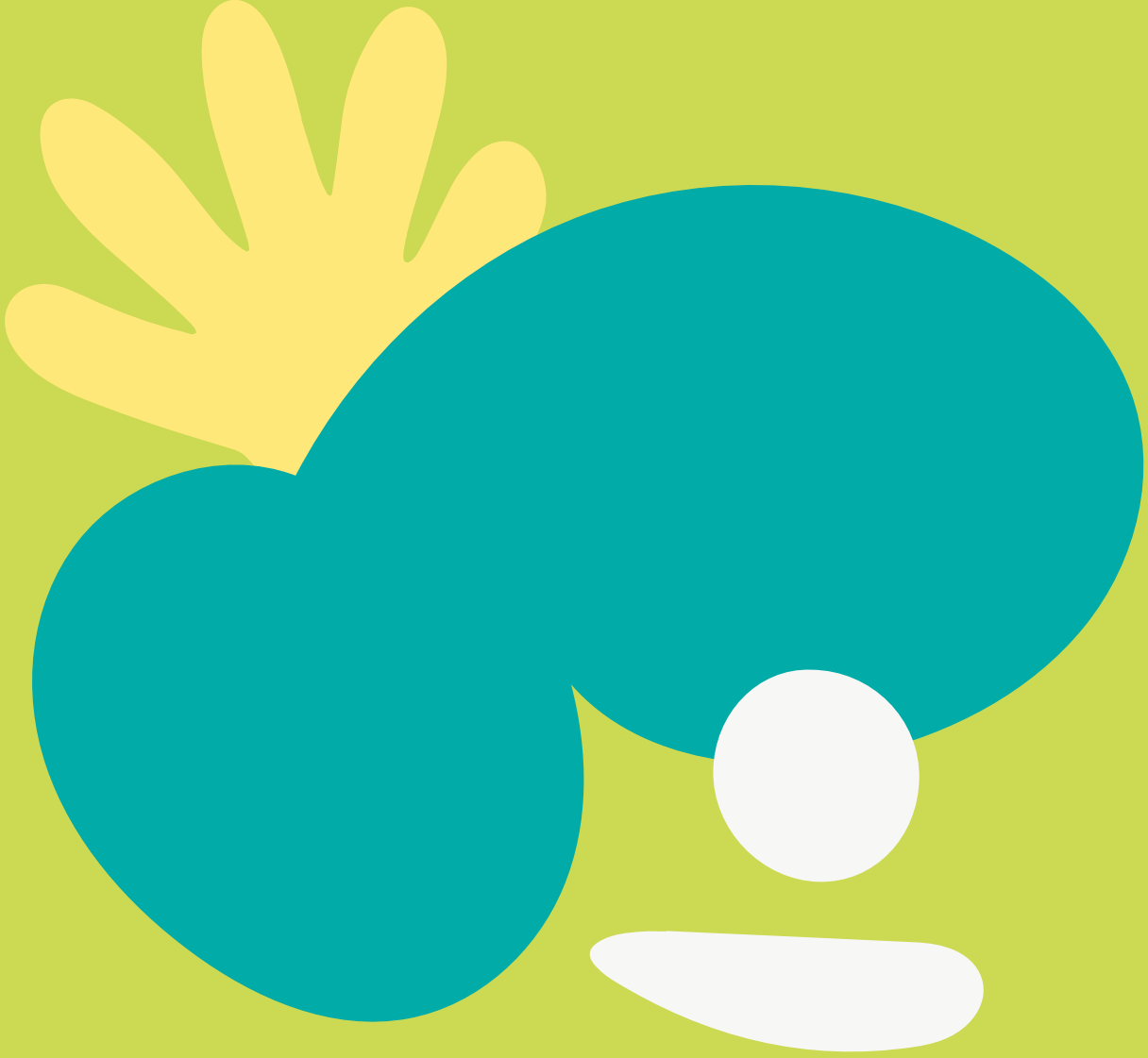
Genre
Novel

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
224

Associated SDGs
5 – Gender Equality
10 – Reduced Inequalities

Brazil





Abcdelas

This illustrated book is an alphabetical collection of biographies of remarkable women who were left out of history. By sharing the stories of many women who were silenced—and whose work and discoveries were forgotten over time—the book invites readers to build new repertoires of female representation in the making of the world and to explore new ways of thinking about diversity, equality, and respect.

Author(s)

Janaina Tokitaka

Illustrator(s)

Janaina Tokitaka

Publisher

Companhia das Letrinhas

Year of Publication

2019

ISBN

9788574068541

Genre

Informational

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

64

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Enreduana

Told through a highly original narrative, this book recounts the story of Enheduanna, considered the first writer in history. A poet and philosopher born in Mesopotamia, she wrote on clay tablets using reed pens. Deeply devoted to the goddess Inanna—goddess of love and fertility—she dedicated many of her poems to her. However, her involvement in politics stirred jealousy among men, and she was exiled from Ur by her own brother. Not long after, she returned to reclaim her role as high priestess.

Author(s):
Roger Mello

Illustrator(s)
Mariana Massarani

Publisher
Companhia das Letrinhas

Year of Publication
2018

ISBN
9788574068411

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
44

Associated SDG
5 – Gender Equality



In my backyard... The Children's Play from North to South

This book explores the games and toys created and enjoyed by children across the five regions of Brazil. It connects play with everyday life and the imagination of childhood. Through stories, photographs, illustrations, and step-by-step guides on how to play and make toys, the book presents children's daily lives, their traditions, and their playful practices.

Author(s):
Gabriela Romeu,
Marlene Peret

Illustrator(s)
João Kammal

Photographs
Samuel Macedo

Publisher
Peirópolis

Year of Publication
2019

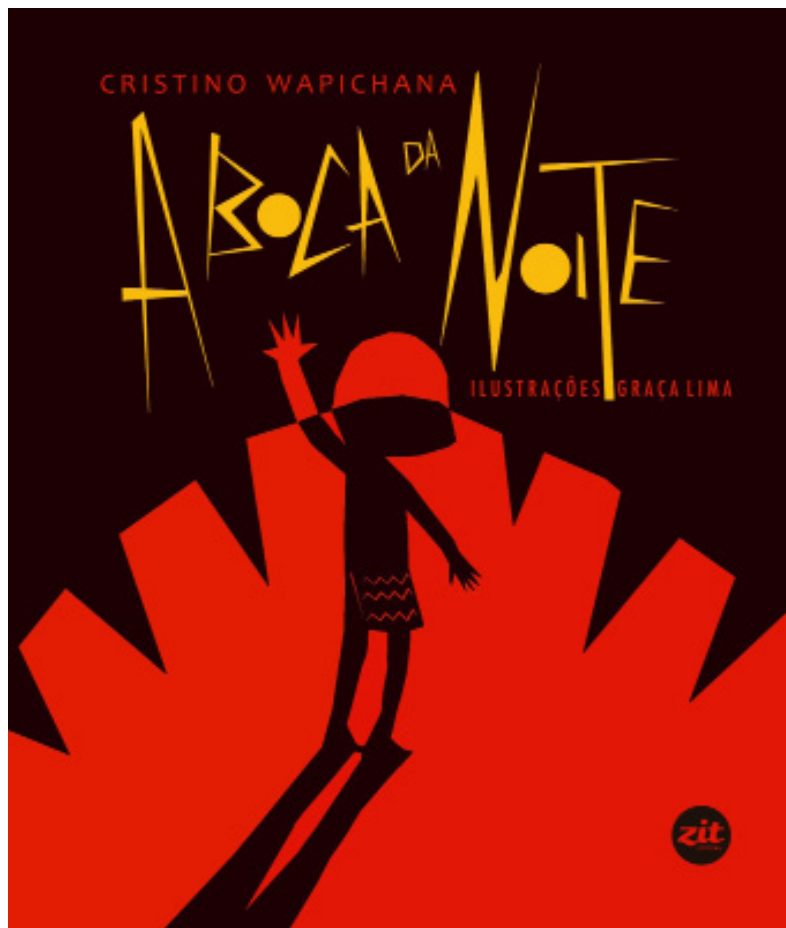
Número ISBN
9788575966464

Genre
Informational

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
128

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities



The Nigth's Mouth

Narrated in the first person, the protagonist's dialogues, thoughts, and questions are conveyed with simplicity and poetry. The contrast of colors enriches the narrative, capturing the changing light of day and night. The story follows the curiosity of an Indigenous boy who wants to uncover the true meaning of "the mouth of the night"—a curiosity that leads him to transgress boundaries and search for answers beyond his father's explanation. The theme of transgression is treated with subtlety and lyricism, allowing universal human emotions to resonate through the culturally grounded perspective of a child.

Author(s):
Cristino Wapichana

Illustrator(s)
Graça Lima

Publisher
Zit

Year of Publication
2016

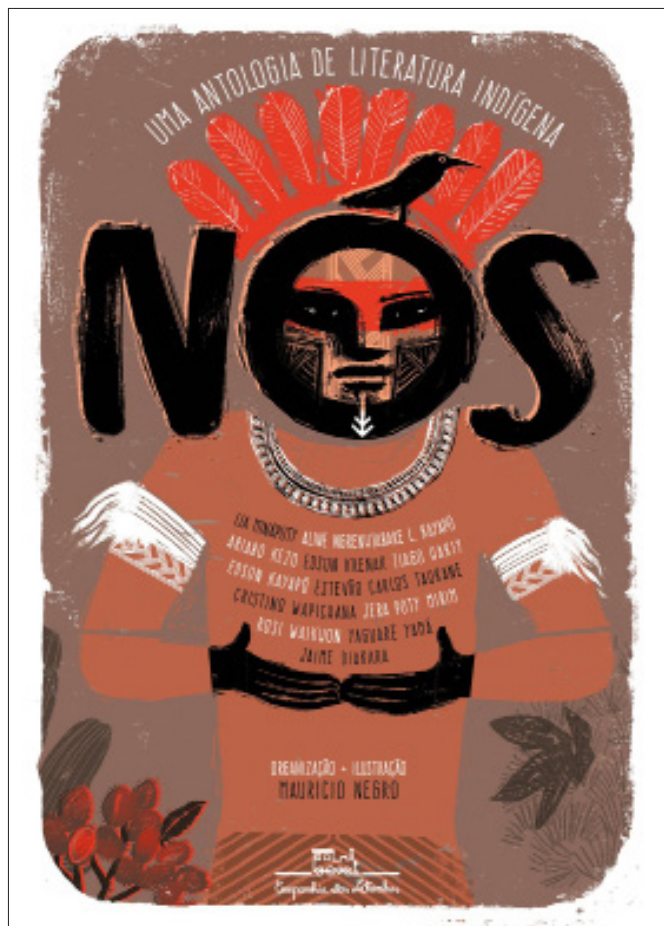
ISBN
9788575966464

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
40

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities



Nós: An Anthology of Indigenous Literature

This anthology, coordinated and illustrated by Mauricio Negro, brings the power of ancestral voices to the forefront through ten stories by Indigenous authors—voices that are especially vital in today’s world. It revisits the origins of Brazil’s population and invites readers into the collective “we” of the title. In Portuguese, nós means both “we” and “knots,” highlighting the way these stories are woven into the broader human narrative.

Author(s):
Aline Ngrenhtabare,
L. Kayapó *et. al.*

**Coordinator and
Illustrator**
Mauricio Negro

Publisher
Companhia das Letrinhas

Year of Publication
2019

ISBN
9788574068640

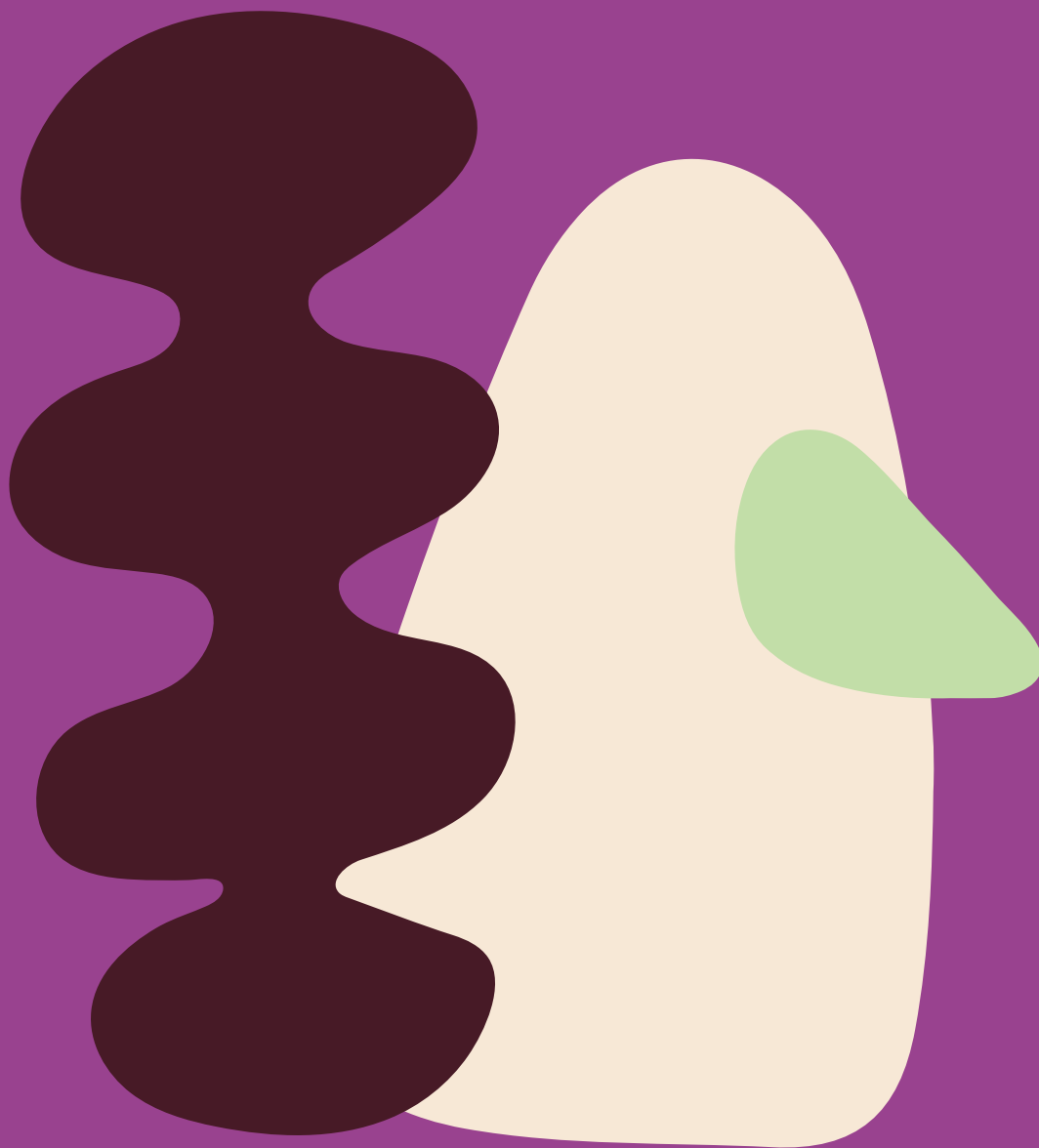
Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
128

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities

Chile





Author(s)
María José Arce

Illustrator(s)
Josefina Hepp

Publisher
Muñeca de Trapo

Year of Publication
2021

ISBN
9789569829239

Genre
Informational

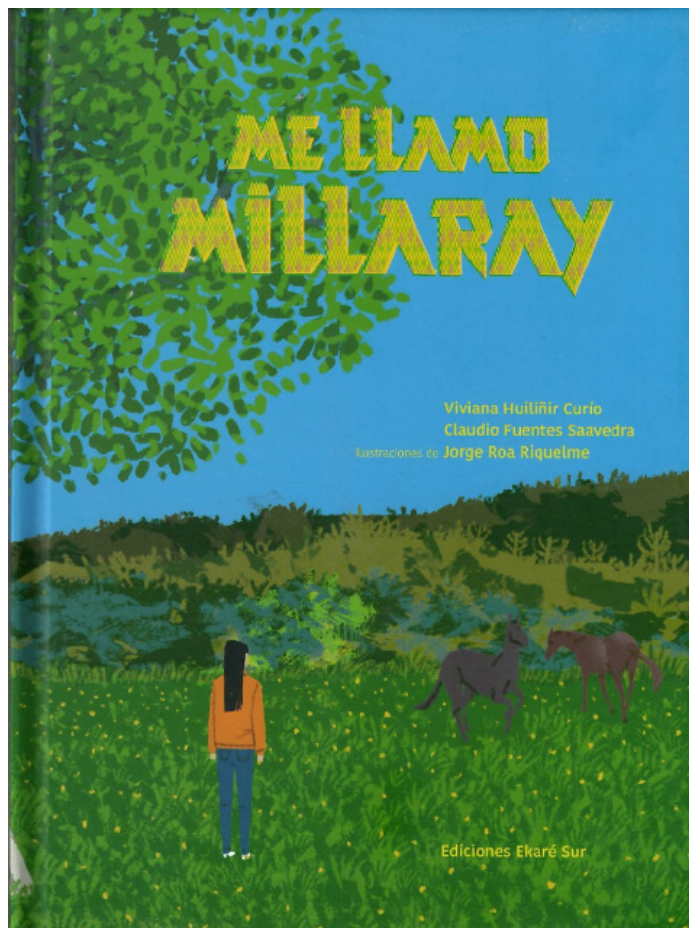
Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
47

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities

A New Neighborhood

Inspired by a true story, this book follows the journey of Renata, a resident of a vulnerable neighborhood in Santiago, who decides to transform and beautify her surroundings. Faced with garbage and a lack of green spaces, she brings her neighbors together to turn a dump into a thriving garden. As the garden grows, so does the spirit of community and harmony. The book includes ecological information, a glossary, and a bibliography to help readers follow in Renata's footsteps. A thoughtful layout and delicate illustrations make this an inspiring and hopeful read—proof that where there's a will, there's a way.



My name is Millaray

From Santiago de Chile, Millaray travels with her friend Catalina to the south of the country to visit her Mapuche family during vacation. The journey becomes an exploration of her people's roots and traditions. Through the voices of these two young girls, the story offers a contemporary intercultural perspective that challenges readers to view society through the lens of diversity. The book also features a school project Millaray works on during her trip, encouraging readers to explore and reconstruct their own origins.

Author(s)

Viviana Huiliñir Curio,
Claudio Fuentes Saavedra

Illustrator(s)

Jorge Roa Riquelme

Publisher

Ediciones Ekaré Sur

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9789566070221

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

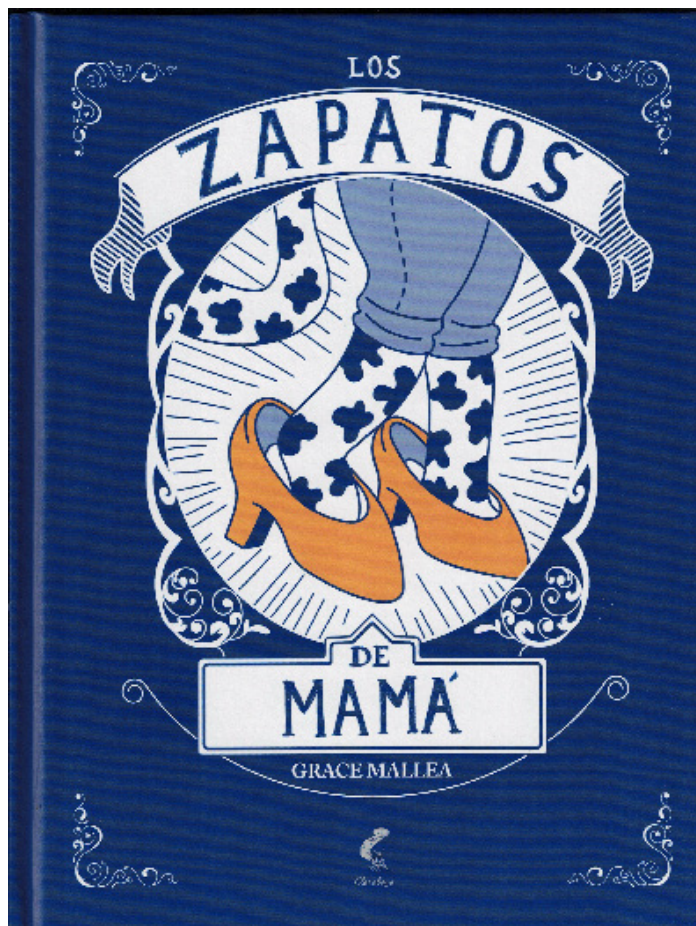
Independent readers

Number of Pages

72

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Mom's Shoes

Presented as the diary of Jásper, a calico kitten, this book explores gender stereotypes from a child's perspective. Jásper feels out of place within traditional gender roles—he likes butterflies and his mom's shoes, but doesn't seem to fit anywhere. The story gently addresses gender identity and the questioning of stereotypes in childhood, while highlighting the importance of family love and self-acceptance. The diary format offers readers an intimate and authentic window into Jásper's thoughts and feelings.

Author(s)
Grace Mallea

Illustrator(s)
Grace Mallea

Publisher
Claraboya

Year of Publication
2022

ISBN
9789569825279

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
64

Associated SDG
5 – Gender Equality



Enmirlada

Enmirlada refers to the blackbird, a bird common throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The male is shiny and colorful, while the female appears dull. In a poetic reversal, Blanca Hernández gives voice and strength to a girl—one who could represent many Latin American girls—navigating the complex metamorphosis of growing up under the weight of gendered expectations. This book offers a powerful opportunity to open conversations with teens about their emotions and experiences, framed through poetic and aesthetic expression.

Author(s)

Blanca Hernández

Illustrator(s)

Beatrice Steele

Publisher

Libros del Pez Espiral

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9789566158110

Genre

Poetry

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

32

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



9 Kilometers

Nine kilometers is the distance a boy in southern Chile must walk every morning to reach school. Some days, the walk feels like a stone in his shoe; other days, like a handful of sweet blackberries. Along the way, he reflects on distance, while the illustrations reveal the region's flora and fauna. This book is more than a story of a journey—it's an invitation to reflect on the social distances that still prevent many children from accessing their right to education.

Author(s)
Claudio Aguilera

Illustrator(s)
Gabriela Lyon

Publisher
Ekaré Sur

Year of Publication
2020

ISBN
9789566070160

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Early readers

Number of Pages
56

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities

Colombia





Blue Mountains

The interwoven narratives in this novel portray the impact of the 1999 earthquake in the Colombian city of Armenia, revealing how the lives of multiple characters were shaped by the tragedy. The book explores themes such as resilience, the strength of women in the face of disaster, empathy, and solidarity. It seeks to preserve the memory of this national trauma so that future generations can understand it and connect with its emotional legacy.

Author(s)

Juliana Gómez Nieto

Illustrator(s)

Juliana Gómez Nieto

Publisher

Planeta

Year of Publication

2017

ISBN

9789584260222

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

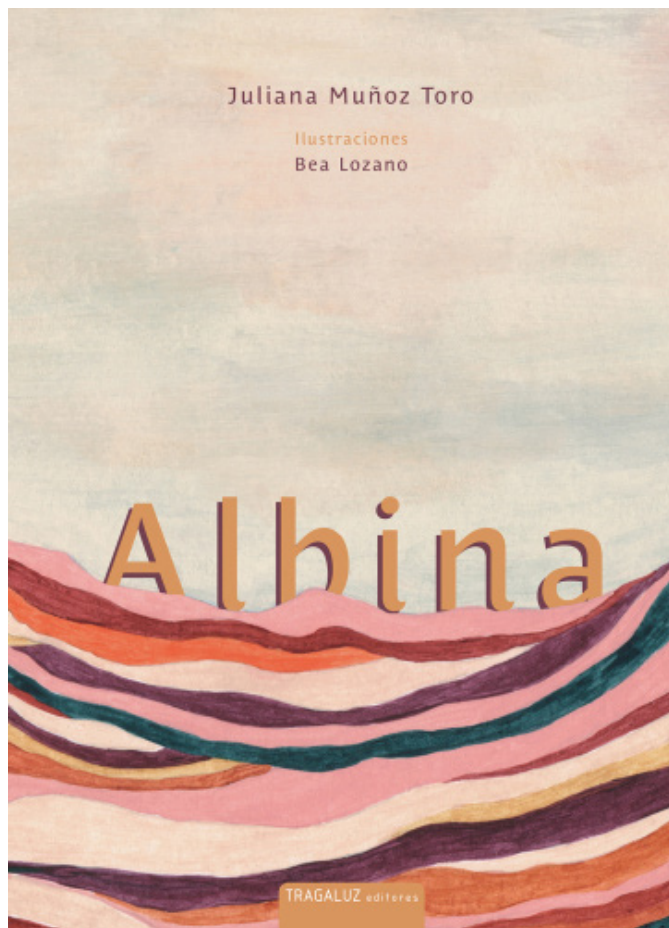
Independent readers

Number of Pages

92

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Albina

A journey can be an exciting adventure, but it also means leaving behind what we love most. Erea sets off on a new path with her mother and her brother, the Magician, in search of a better future. Though they leave her father behind, she keeps him alive in her memory, counting the days until his return. Along the way, we discover a unique and unfamiliar world through the eyes of young Erea—a girl who once feared the sun and had grown used to going unnoticed.

Author(s)

Juliana Muñoz Toro

Illustrator(s)

Bea Lozano

Publisher

Tragaluz

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9789585463608

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

140

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Author(s)
Juan Carlos Restrepo

Illustrator(s)
Manuela Correa

Publisher
Tragaluz

Year of Publication
2015

ISBN
9789588845333

Genre
Picture Book

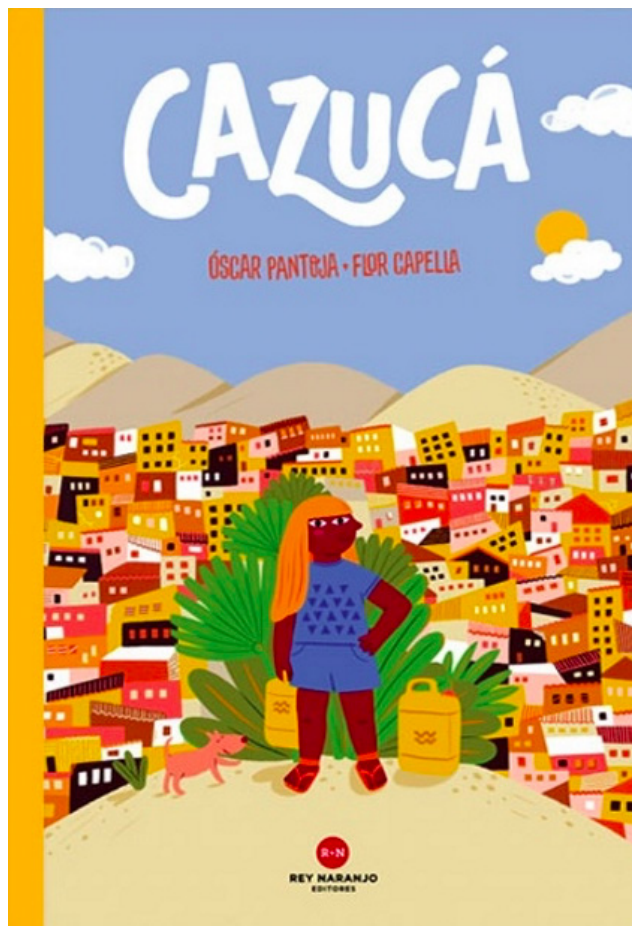
Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
44

Associated SDGs
5 – Gender Equality
10 – Reduced Inequalities

We are the Same

Liza the frog and Serafín the porcupine are dealing with a shared problem: a constant, irritating itch. When they realize they have this unexpected discomfort in common, they decide to help each other. Through their efforts, they discover the power of solidarity and learn a meaningful lesson in self-acceptance. This charming story invites readers to reflect on embracing who they are and finding comfort in recognizing themselves in others.



Cazucá

In Cazucá, water scarcity is a harsh reality. Long lines in front of water trucks and exhausting walks under the sun are part of daily life for the community's residents. Carrying heavy containers, they bring the precious liquid back to their homes. This unjust situation is all too common in many parts of the world, where access to clean water becomes a vital luxury and a daily struggle for survival for entire families living in vulnerable conditions.

Author(s)
Óscar Pantoja

Illustrator(s)
Flor Capella

Publisher
Rey Naranjo

Year of Publication
2020

ISBN
9789585586154

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
36

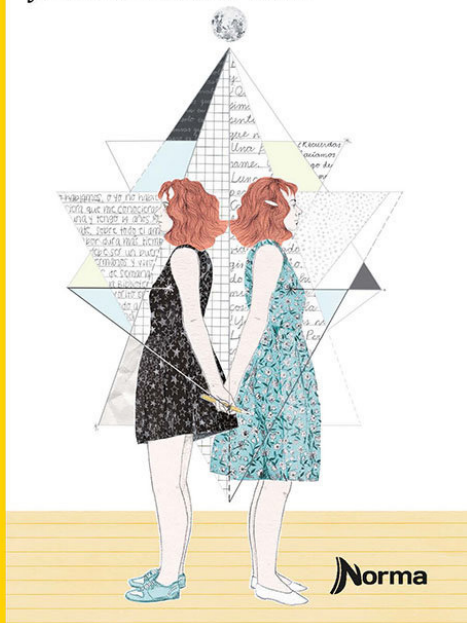
Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities



Ilustraciones de Marcela Quiroz

Diario de dos Lunas

Juliana Muñoz Toro



Author(s)

Juliana Muñoz Toro

Illustrator(s)

Marcela Quiroz

Publisher

Norma

Year of Publication

2020

ISBN

9789580013426

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

128

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality

The Two Lunas' Diary

Through a series of short diary entries, we are immersed in the thoughts and experiences of Luna—the main character—and “the other Luna,” a young girl confronting the imposition of an arranged marriage. The contemporary Luna forms a close bond with writing, cultivates meaningful friendships, and ultimately discovers love. This narrative weaves together past and present, offering a deep, poetic, and balanced story told with captivating originality.

Costa Rica





Juana Dares

The girl at the center of this story has the courage to explore the unknown and the inner strength to discover the world, herself, and her freedom. In the face of problems and challenges, there is often only one dominant perspective. But, as the protagonist shows, it's essential to take risks and question that reality.

Author(s)

Héctor Gamboa

Ilustradora(e)s

Héctor Gamboa

Publisher

Editorial La Jirafa y Yo

Year of Publication

2019

ISBN

9789968583732

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

32

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



The Tapir on the Runway

The tapir, the protagonist of this original story, dreams of becoming a model—but things don't go as planned. Yet the experience leads her to a deeper understanding of herself and her true desires. Alongside the narrative, the book stands out for its poetic language and illustrations that offer a gentle, thoughtful perspective.

Author(s)
Carlos Rubio

Ilustradora(e)s
Ruth Angulo

Publisher
Editorial Costa Rica

Year of Publication
2019

ISBN
9789587769593

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
48

Associated SDG
5 – Gender Equality



Author(s)
Paúllo Sánchez

Illustrator(s)
Paúllo Sánchez

Publisher
Editorial Costa Rica

Year of Publication
2022

ISBN
9789930580325

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
28

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities

The Inventor of Clouds

Although there seems to be a fixed formula for making clouds, the protagonist of this story makes a surprising discovery in the science behind these fluffy masses. Through his creative process, his unique recipe invites readers to reflect on the value of being different.



Pachi, the Chameleon who understood its own Beauty

Pachi, the central character of this story, is eager to make new friends—so much so that he tries to become someone he's not, leading to risky situations. Everything changes when he meets Lila, a girl who helps him understand the importance of embracing his true self. This story encourages respect, empathy, and self-acceptance.

Author(s)

Silvia Espinoza Bolaños

Illustrator(s)

Álvaro Borrasé Fernández

Publisher

Editorial Costa Rica

Year of Publication

2020

ISBN

9789930549827

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

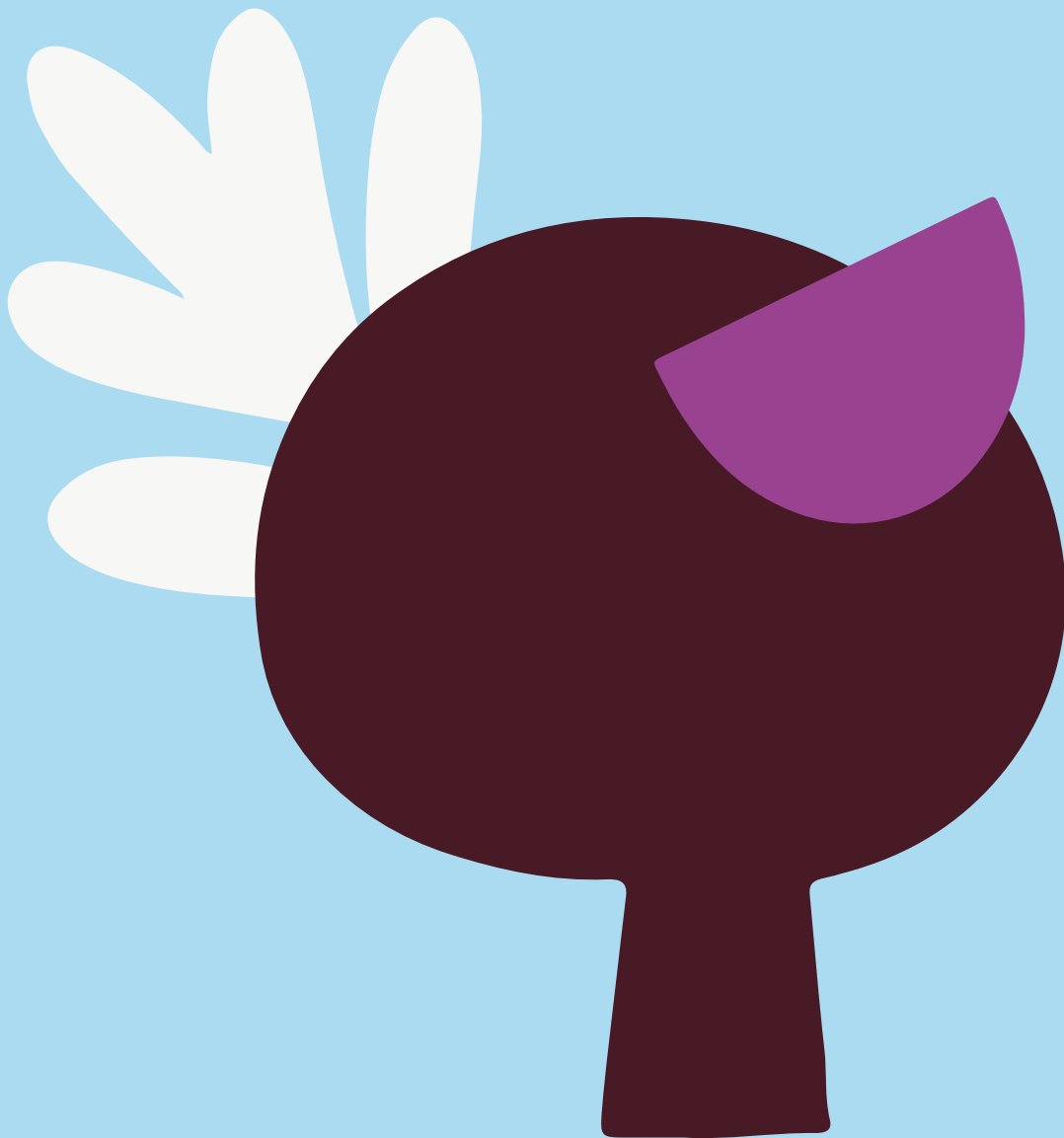
Number of Pages

40

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities

Cuba





Law of Gravity

With simple yet powerful imagery, this picture book tells the story of a child who, after undergoing cancer treatment, must reintegrate into everyday life. His journey of returning to the world and accepting his new reality gradually dissolves the differences and biases that set him apart from other children. The visual storytelling is especially poignant, using the metaphor of the child's regrowing hair alongside the lush, thriving natural world around him.

Author(s)
Olimpia Chong Carrillo

Illustrator(s)
Mariela Valdés López

Publisher
Gente Nueva

Year of Publication
2015

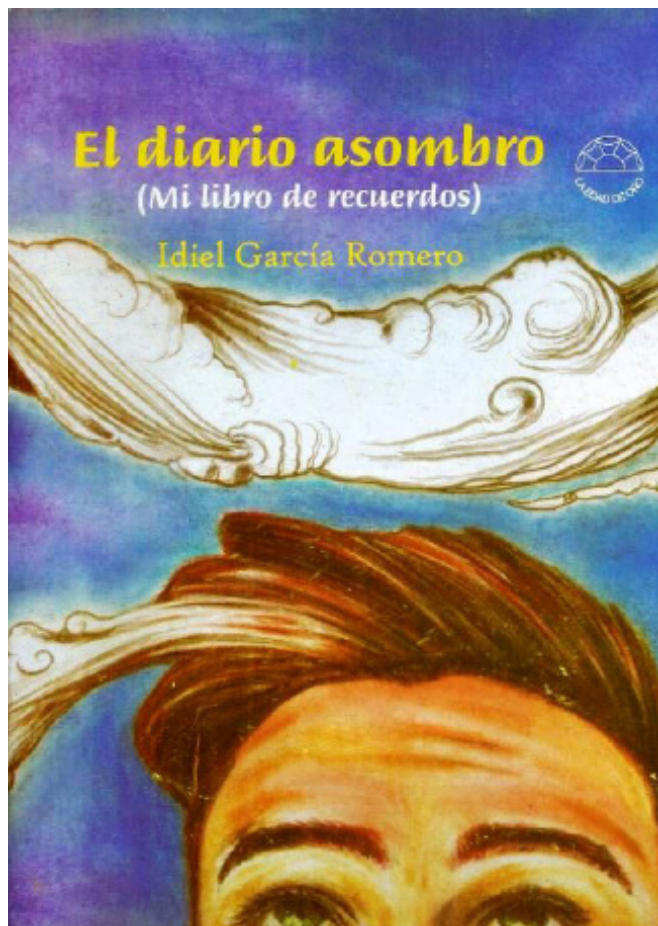
ISBN
9789590819278

Genre
Informational

Reading Level
Early readers

Number of Pages
48

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities



The Every Day Wonder – My Book of Memories

Children have the gift of turning the ordinary into fantasy and everyday moments into wonder. Few carry this magical view into adulthood—but Idiel is one of them. By sharing his childhood, he inspires those who still find amazement in nature and life. This tender, nuanced book portrays a loving environment where a child builds friendships, grows, and discovers the world, celebrating friendship and equity along the way.

Author(s)

Idiel García Romero

Illustrator(s)

Idiel García Romero

Publisher

Gente Nueva

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9789590826344

Genre

Poetry

Reading Level

Early readers

Number of Pages

48

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Four Friends

Fleeing loneliness, a witch, a dog, a mouse, and a cat set out to explore the world. Along the way, they meet and must learn to set aside their differences in order to live together. This poetic fable offers a valuable lesson for children and adults alike, with layered meaning and subtle reflections on human behavior.

Author(s)
Nelson Simón

Illustrator(s)
Yancarlos Perugorría

Publisher
Ediciones Al Margen,
Editorial Cauce

Year of Publication
2018

ISBN
9789597224594

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Early readers

Number of Pages
32

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities



Butterflies in the Stomach

This collection of short stories explores the many ways people experience and express their sexuality, as well as society's acceptance—or rejection—of it. The narratives reflect the search for love, delve into the human psyche, and portray moments of misunderstanding, self-discovery, and truth. Each story offers a unique perspective on what it means to feel different and to exist within a society eager to label and categorize.

Author(s)

Eldys Baratute,
Enrique Pérez Díaz

Illustrator(s)

Alberto Díaz de León

Publisher

Gente Nueva

Year of Publication

2018

ISBN

9789590823947

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

144

Associated SDGs

5 – Gender Equality
10 – Reduced Inequalities

Ecuador





Author(s)

Sozapato (Sofía Zapata)

Illustrator(s)

Sozapato (Sofía Zapata)

Publisher

Casa de la Cultura
Ecuadoriana Benjamín
Carrión, Núcleo
Pichincha, Unidad de
Publicaciones y Editorial
Provincial

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9789942705921

Genre

Picture Book | Poetry

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

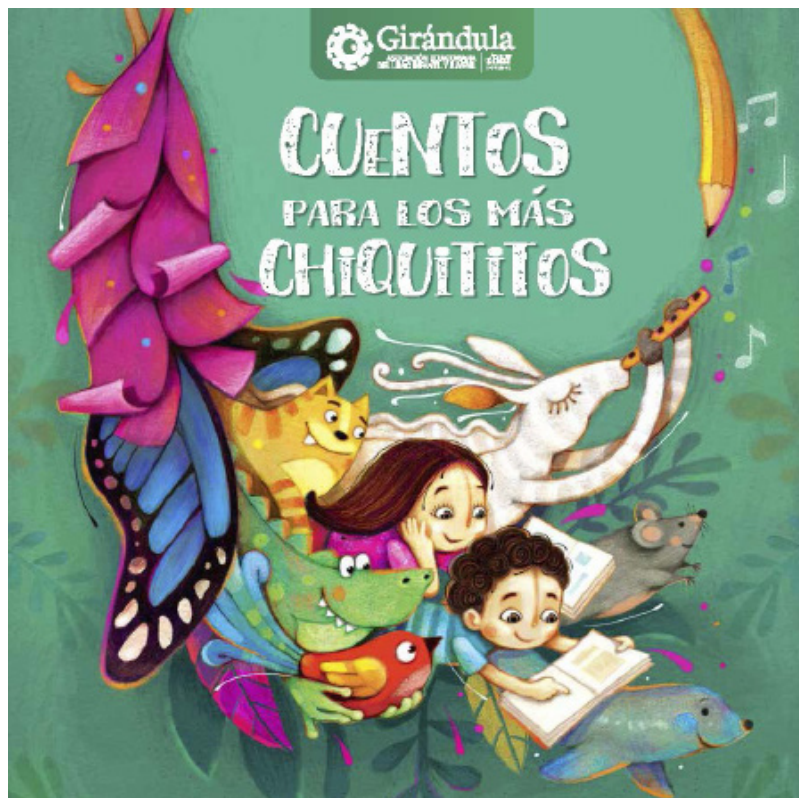
40

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities

Home

With poetic language, this book presents home as a symbol of protection and refuge. It is a space of freedom that everyone has a right to—a foundation for personal growth and a warm encounter with oneself.



Antology: Stories for the Youngest

This anthology brings together ten stories for early childhood, each with strong aesthetic and literary qualities. The stories highlight children's rights to safety, inclusion, affection, play, and reading—essentials for their development, happiness, and quality of life.

Author(s)

Edgar Allan García,
Patricia Enderica, Armin
Alfonso Soler, Edna
Iturralde, Julio Awad,
Santiago Váscquez,
Leonor Bravo, Juana
Neira, María Alejandra
Almeida, Geovanny
Pangol

Illustrator(s)

Darwin Parra, Guido
Chávez, María Isabel
Vásquez, Eulalia
Cornejo, Miguel Ángel
Verdugo, Andrés Pabón,
Claudia Hernández,
Camiluna, Diego Aldaz,
Estefanía Santos

Publisher

Casa de la Cultura
Ecuatoriana Benjamín
Carrión

Year of Publication

2023

ISBN

9789942341051

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Young readers

Number of Pages

67

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Hostel for Butterflies

This book tells the story of two teenage girls who, facing silence at home, social conflict, and violence against women, choose to rebel. They set out on a coming-of-age journey where, through adventure and new experiences, they reconnect with themselves and begin to shape their identities.

Author(s)

Cecilia Velasco

Illustrator(s)

Daryl Hernández
González

Publisher

Andarele Casa Editorial

Year of Publication

2020

ISBN

9789942788528

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

99

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Antology: The Long Hug Stories

This anthology of twelve stories explores the pandemic from diverse perspectives. More than just entertaining, these narratives offer thoughtful reflections on the experiences of children, youth, and their families during the health crisis. Centered on resilience, hope, empathy, and solidarity—especially with the most vulnerable—these stories capture the collective emotional landscape of a time that transformed the world.

Author(s)

Isabel Jijón, Ana Carlota González, Julio Awad, Santiago Vásconez, Pablo Lara, María Eugenia Lasso, María Eugenia Delgado, Hans Behr, Francisco Delgado, Geovanny Pangol, Liset Lantigua, Edgar Allan García

Publisher

Darwin Parra, Pablo Lara, Miguel Ángel Verdugo, Andrés Pabón, Guido Chávez, Nashely Lascano, Diego Aldaz, Claudia Hernández

Editorial

Girándula

Year of Publication

2021

ISBN

9789942997449

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

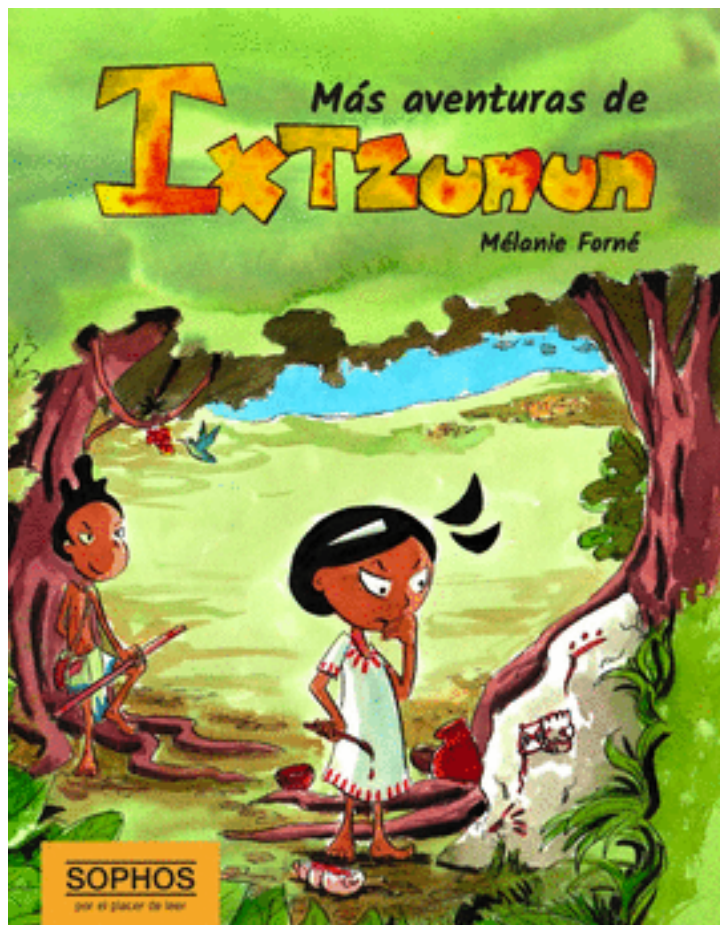
103

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities

Guatemala





More Adventures of Ixtz'unun

Ixtz'unun is a young girl living in the Maya community of Hix Wiitz during pre-Columbian times. Across four chapters, she explores her artistic talents and uncovers the meaning of her name. This second book in the series introduces readers to daily life in an 8th-century Maya village in a fun and engaging way, helping children connect with the heritage of this rich and vibrant civilization.

Author(s)
Mélanie Forné

Illustrator(s)
Mélanie Forné

Publisher
Sophos

Year of Publication
2023

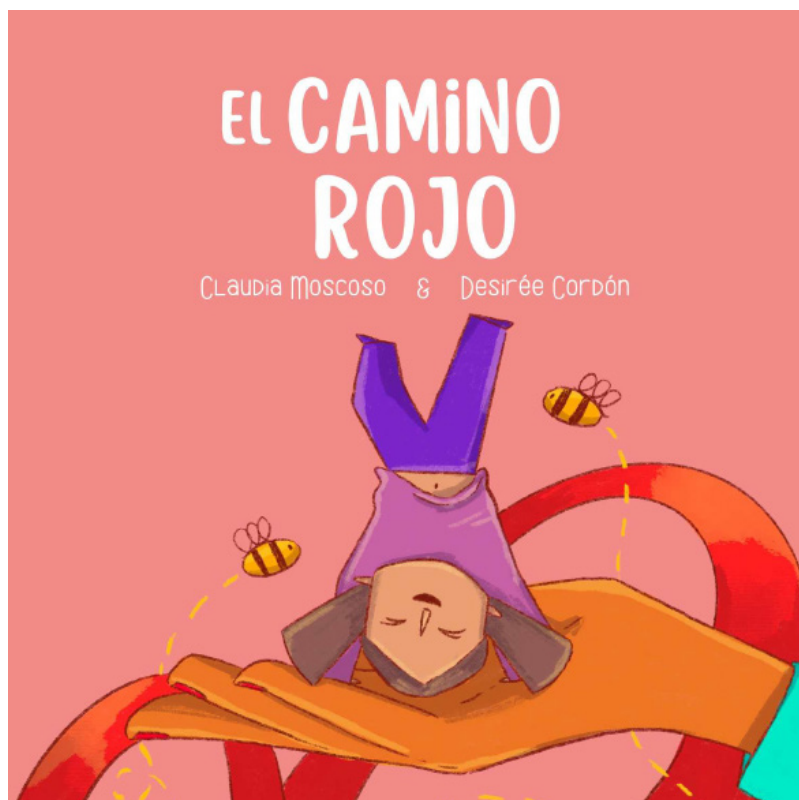
ISBN
9789929745230

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
49

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities



Author(s)
Claudia Moscoso

Illustrator(s)
Desirée Córdón

Publisher
Mistu

Year of Publication
2021

ISBN
9789929786110

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Early readers

Number of Pages
32

Associated SDG
5 – Gender Equality

The Red Path

From a very young age, Valentina walked along the Yellow Road. As she grows, she begins to notice changes and turns to her mother with her concerns. With love and guidance, her mother supports her as she begins to walk the Red Road. Using the metaphor of a path, this story offers a clear, positive, and inspiring portrayal of the transition from girlhood to womanhood.



Author(s)
Amanda Chif Flayer

Illustrator(s)
Abraham Mendoza

Publisher
Amanda Chif Flayer

Year of Publication
2023

ISBN
9789993908739

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Babies and early readers

Number of Pages
22

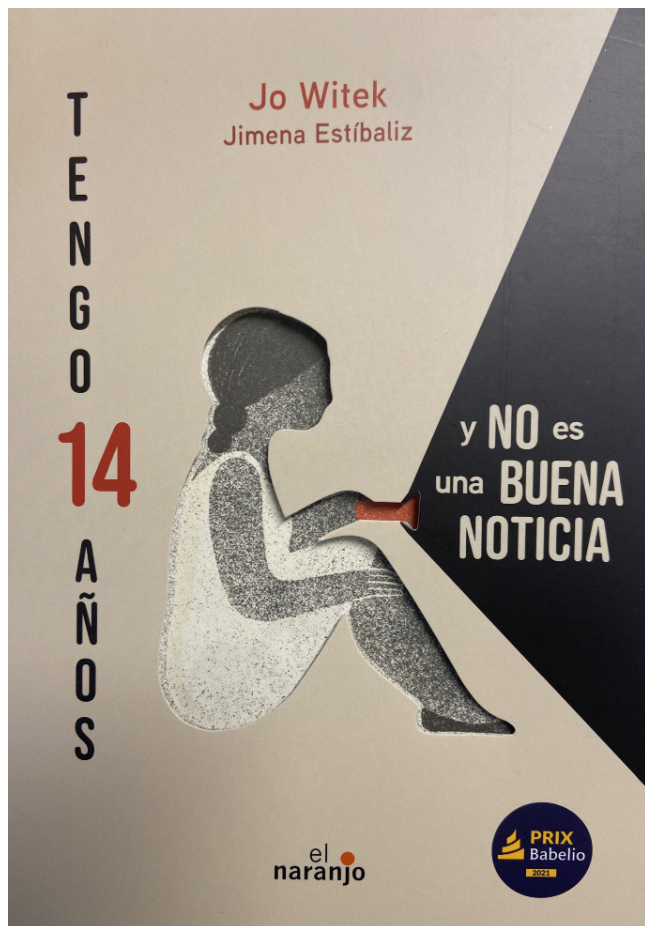
Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities

TAN

TAN is an interactive book that introduces young readers to a variety of animals, each one linked to a special trait that makes it unique. On the final page, two children appear—reminding readers that they, too, are just as extraordinary in their individuality as the animals they’ve met along the way.

Mexico





I am 14 years old and it is no Good News

When Efi returns home for summer vacation, she's excited to see her family, proud of her school achievements, and full of dreams. But her world shifts when she learns her future has already been decided—for her. This delicately written and illustrated novel tells the story of a teenage girl forced into marriage. While it portrays a painful reality, it ultimately offers a powerful message of resilience and hope.

Author(s)

Jo Witek

Illustrator(s)

Jimena Estíbaliz

Publisher

El Naranjo

Year of Publication

2022

ISBN

9786078807260

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

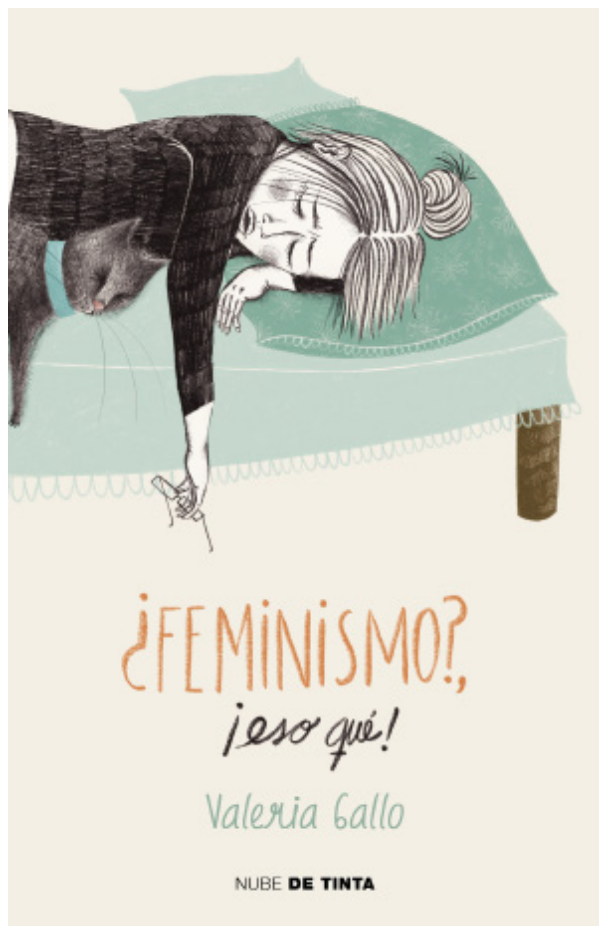
Number of Pages

133

Associated SDGs

5 – Gender Equality

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Feminism? So What?

Camila is tired of hearing about feminism. She believes women already have the same rights and opportunities as men—so why keep talking about it? But in her everyday life, she notices the inequalities that still persist. Guided by the stories of trailblazing feminists who challenged a male-dominated world, Camila slowly comes to understand the importance of this centuries-long fight for women’s rights.

Author(s)

Valeria Gallo

Illustrator(s)

Valeria Gallo

Publisher

Nube de tinta

Year of Publication

2023

ISBN

9786073806046

Genre

Informational

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

134

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Who is going to kill the mouse?

The teacher enters the classroom, unaware that an intruder has disrupted the routine: a mouse is hiding behind the bookshelf, terrified, while the children shout and argue over who should deal with the “beast.” This unusual event sparks a reflection among the teacher and students on the roles men and women have played throughout history. Warm-toned, expressive illustrations enhance this thoughtful and engaging story.

Author(s)

Juan Carlos Quezadas

Illustrator(s)

Valeria Gallo

Publisher

Planeta

Year of Publication

2018

ISBN

9786070745737

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

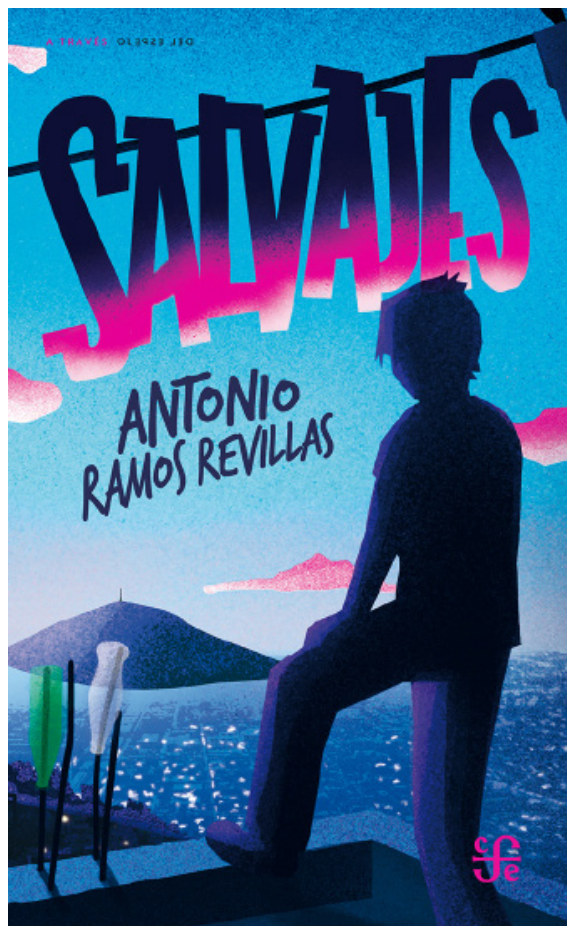
Independent readers

Number of Pages

72

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Savages

Efraín lives with his mother and two siblings high on a hill, in a place without pavement—where poverty and marginalization prevail, and the future for many youth often means becoming apprentices to drug traffickers, becoming “savages.” When his mother is imprisoned, Efraín sets out on a journey marked by injustice in a desperate attempt to free her. Told with raw, powerful realism, this story explores the harsh realities of marginalization, poverty, injustice, and classism faced by many young people in Mexico.

Author(s)

Antonio Ramos Revillas

Illustrator(s)

Antonio Ramos Revillas

Publisher

Fondo de Cultura
Económica

Year of Publication

2021

ISBN

9786071669773

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

Independent readers

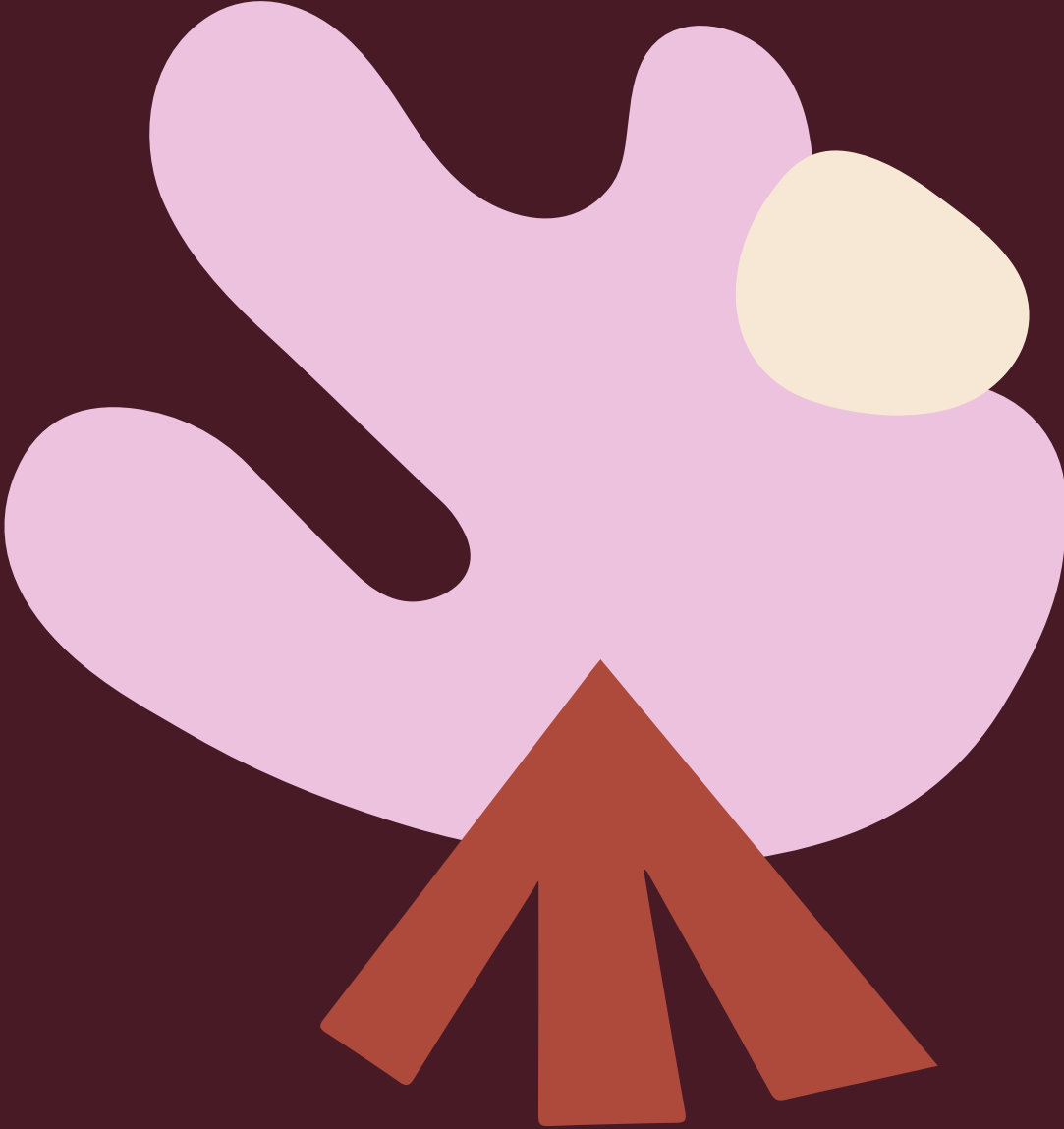
Number of Pages

151

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities

Peru





One story and one song

This story follows Niñachallay, a young girl whose mother shares wondrous tales with her during their journey. Along the way, they encounter noble and magical creatures from the mountains—but also human greed and violence. Featuring foxes, mermaids, and yacurunas, the narrative weaves Quechua and Amazonian oral traditions into tender, meaningful conversations between mother and daughter.

Author(s)
Sheila Alvarado

Illustrator(s)
Sheila Alvarado

Publisher
SM

Year of Publication
2018

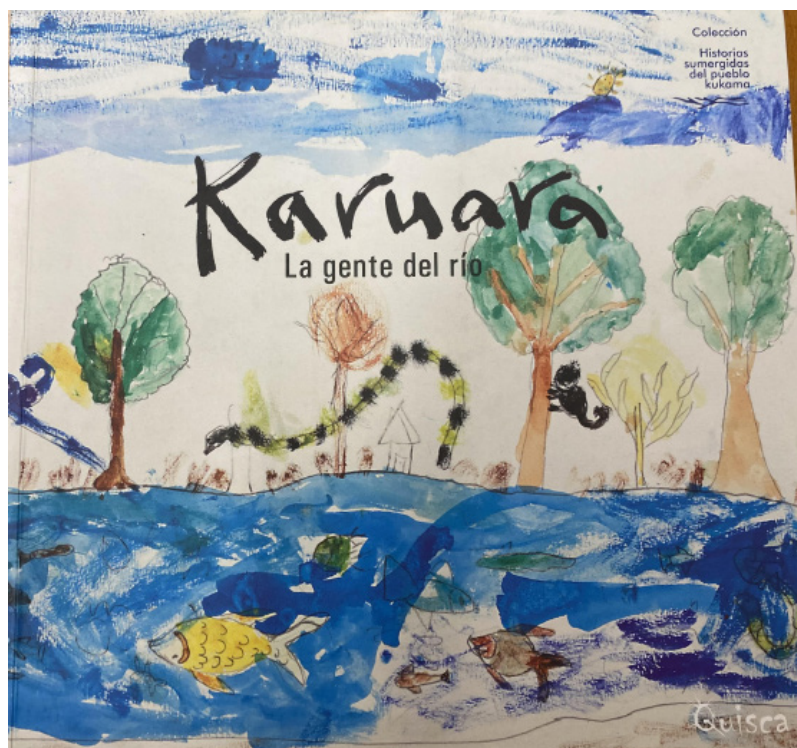
ISBN
9786123167004

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
64

Associated SDGs
5 – Gender Equality
10 – Reduced Inequalities



Karuara. The People from the River

Created in collaboration with the Kukama native community, this book shares stories from their daily lives. These narratives open the door to different worlds that are essential to sustaining life and maintaining harmonious relationships. Oil spills, commercial ships, and megaprojects threaten not only the river but also the underworld of the karuaras. The survival of the Kukama people is inseparable from that of the karuaras—guardians of the river and forest. Like their knowledge and worldview, their language is also at risk of disappearing.

Author(s)

Ribelino Ricopa Alvis *et al.*

Illustrator(s)

Illustrated by children from the lower Marañón River

Publisher

Asociación Quisca, Radio Ucamara, Wainakana Kamatawarakana, Organización Kukamiria de Mujeres Trabajadoras

Year of Publication

2016

ISBN

9786124718403

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

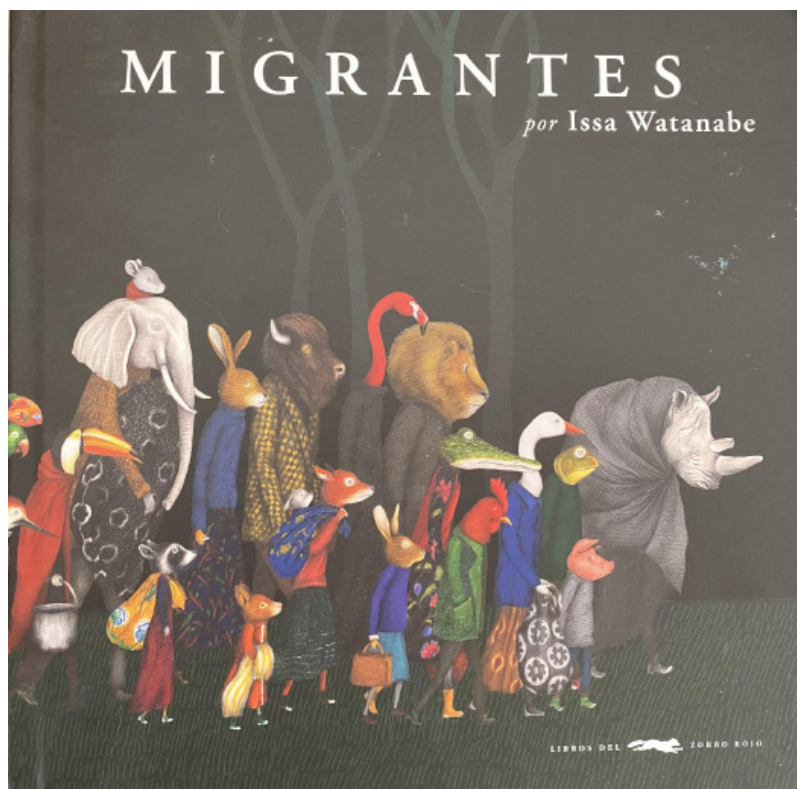
Independent readers

Number of Pages

124

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Author(s)

Issa Watanabe

Illustrator(s)

Issa Watanabe

Publisher

Libros del Zorro Rojo

Year of Publication

2019

ISBN

9788494990151

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

Early readers |
Independent readers

Number of Pages

38

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities

Migrants

This wordless picture book tells the story of a group of animals forced to leave their forest. It's a powerful narrative of migration—filled with uncertainty, where death and hope coexist. Through striking illustrations, the book mirrors real-world scenes of refugee camps and forced displacement, inviting readers to reflect deeply on a global crisis shaped by profound inequality.



Once upon a time there was a Peruvian Woman

This book introduces readers to the stories of 62 women who, through dreams, strength, and perseverance, helped shape a more equitable and less conservative society for girls and young women in Peru. Featuring 39 voices from 19 writers and 20 illustrators, it is a symphonic celebration of Peruvian women's achievements and their ongoing fight for equality.

Author(s)

Carmen Ollé, Giovanna Pollarolo, Gabriela Wiener, Katya Adaui *et al.*

Illustrator(s)

Claudia Coca, Issa Watanabe, Leslie Umezaki *et al.*

Publisher

Xilófono

Year of Publication

2018

ISBN

9786124772221

Genre

Informational

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

175

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality

Dominican Republic





‘F’ for Friend

Alfredo is an autistic child attending elementary school. With his friends, he solves mysteries and enjoys fun adventures. The book highlights the daily challenges he faces and how his friends support him in overcoming them. It emphasizes the value of friendship as the key to inclusion and invites readers to reflect on how everyone has strengths and needs—and therefore deserves equal opportunities.

Author(s)

Alfonsina Madera

Illustrator(s)

Stephany Mesa

Publisher

Self-published

Year of Publication

2023

ISBN

9789945183689

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

Early readers

Number of Pages

44

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Author(s)
Yuan Fuei Liao

Illustrator(s)
Yatxel Sánchez

Publisher
Santillana

Year of Publication
2016

ISBN
9789945193701

Genre
Narrative

Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
136

Associated SDGs
5 – Gender Equality
10 – Reduced Inequalities

To Make your Voice Heard

The possibility for girls and boys to express themselves is essential for communicating their thoughts and exercising their rights. This book presents 12 children's rights, each accompanied by a story and a set of questions for deeper reflection. Among the rights addressed is the right to equality, which states that every child should enjoy the same opportunities regardless of their skin color, gender, social status, or whether they have a disability or not.



Outstanding Dominican Women: 150 Women who Changed Dominican Republic

This book presents short biographies and quotes from remarkable Dominican women—actresses, chefs, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, athletes, thinkers, and more. It shares inspiring stories of figures like Anacaona, María Trinidad Sánchez, and the Mirabal sisters, celebrating their enduring impact on Dominican society.

Author(s)
Geraldine de Santis

Illustrator(s)
Kilia Llano

Publisher
Indiegogo
(crowdfunding)

Year of Publication
2018

ISBN
9789945092066

Genre
Informational

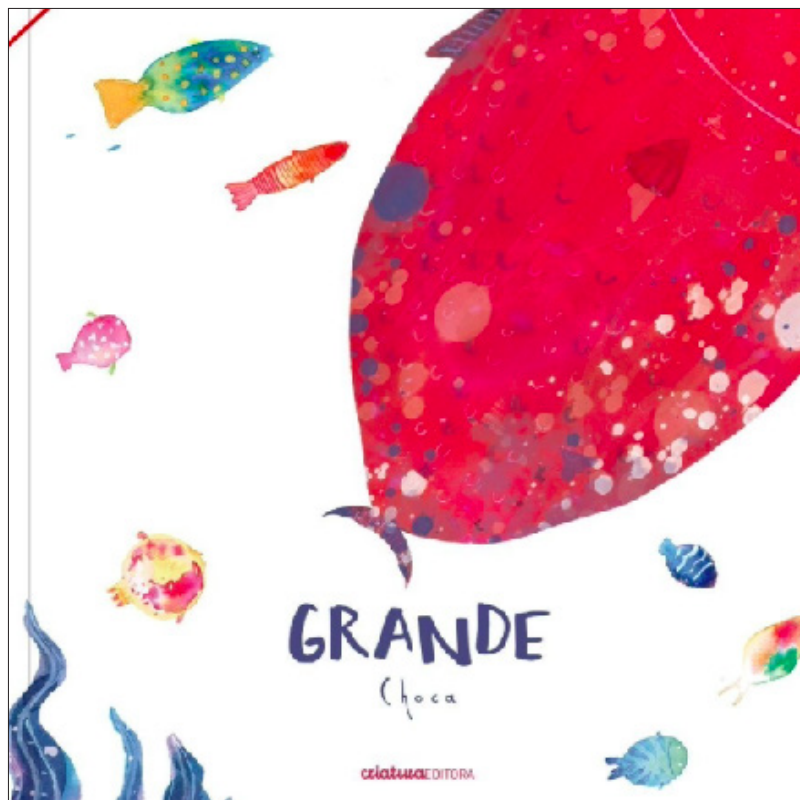
Reading Level
Independent readers

Number of Pages
225

Associated SDG
5 – Gender Equality

Uruguay





Author(s)
Pablo Choca

Illustrator(s)
Pablo Choca

Publisher
Criatura Editora

Year of Publication
2018

ISBN
9789974867796

Genre
Picture Book

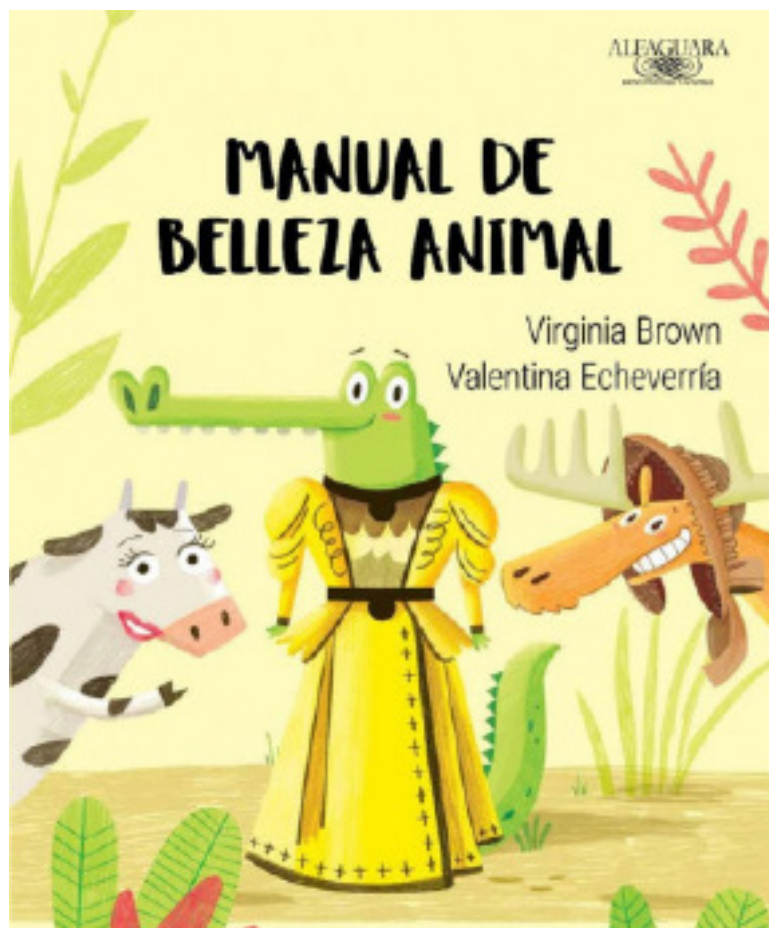
Reading Level
Early readers

Number of Pages
24

Associated SDG
10 – Reduced Inequalities

Big

Kai is upset because his twin brother, Nui, grew up faster. So upset, in fact, that he sets off on a walk across the ocean. Along the way, he meets wise sea creatures and, almost without realizing it, finds his way back home. When he returns, his family is waiting—but Kai has changed. Big invites readers on an inner journey, showing that being different isn't bad, and that everyone grows and transforms in their own time.



Handbook of Animal Beauty

In this playful picture book, various animals try out beauty tips and tricks—only to discover they were beautiful all along. What is beauty? Who defines it? With humor and vibrant illustrations, the book invites young readers (and adults) to question beauty standards and celebrate self-acceptance.

Author(s)

Virginia Brown

Illustrator(s)

Valentina Echeverría

Publisher

Alfaguara

Year of Publication

2018

ISBN

9789974888104

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

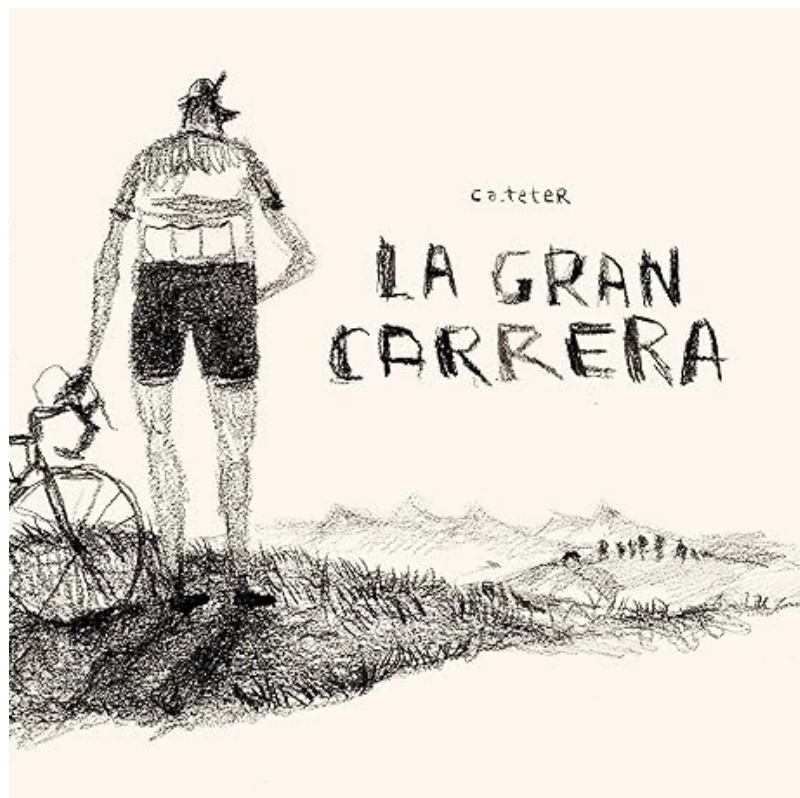
Early readers

Number of Pages

28

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



The Big Race

This wordless book—featured in the White Ravens 2021 catalog and winner of Uruguay’s 2020 National Prize for Children’s and Youth Literature—bursts with vibrant images and dynamic characters. Without using a single word, it tells a profound story of life as a race: full of ups and downs, tangles, nights and days, and new beginnings. With hand-made illustrations digitally composed, it invites readers to experience the journey of life through their greatest gift: freedom.

Author(s)

José Mato (Ca_teter)

Illustrator(s)

José Mato (Ca_teter)

Publisher

Alter Ediciones

Year of Publication

2020

ISBN

97899748771139

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

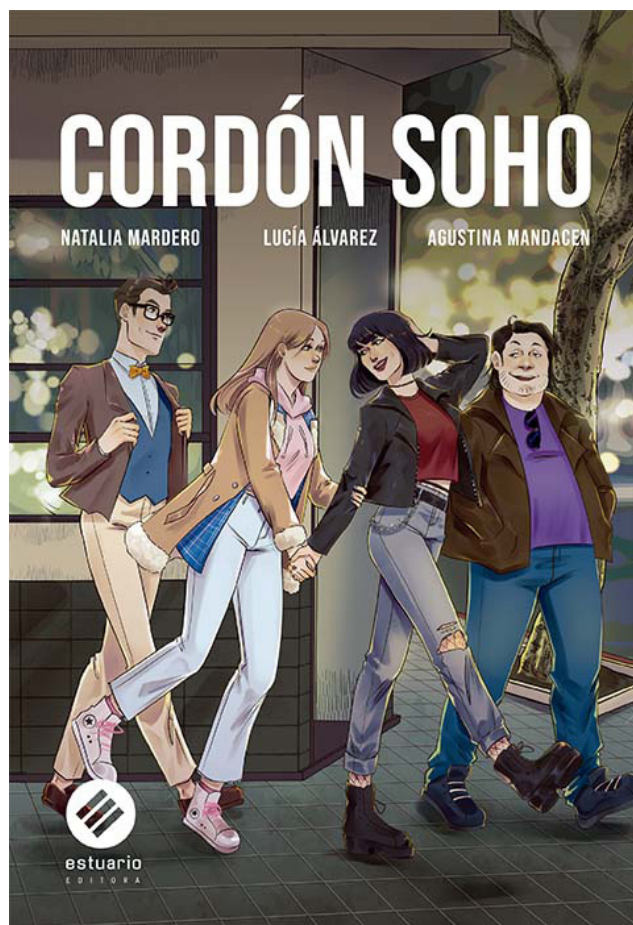
Early readers

Number of Pages

24

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Cordon Soho

Cordon Soho captures the delicate line between youth and adulthood—where bars become second homes, friends are chosen family, and Spotify provides the endless soundtrack of life. Set in Montevideo's Córdón neighborhood, these stories explore friendship, heartbreak, and the uncertainties of growing up. Through expressive visuals and vibrant color, the book reflects a generation alive with dreams, questions, and freedom.

Author(s)

Natalia Mardero

Illustrator(s)

Agustina Mandacén,
Lucía Álvarez, Nicolás
Peruzzo

Publisher

Estuario Editora

Year of Publication

2024

ISBN

9789915675787

Genre

Graphic Novel

Reading Level

Independent readers

Number of Pages

88

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities

Venezuela





Aunt Berta

This calm, intimate story recounts the life of Berta Brandt, born during World War I, who arrived in Venezuela in the 1950s to work as an elevator operator. The book's tall, narrow format enhances the vertical rhythm of Berta's everyday life. Through careful collage illustrations, it portrays the ups and downs of an ordinary woman whose life is quietly profound.

Author(s)

Felipe Márquez

Illustrator(s)

Jefferson Quintana

Publisher

Camelia Ediciones

Year of Publication

2014

ISBN

9789806450516

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

Early readers

Number of Pages

40

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Alternatives for the End of the World

In a world where food and water are scarce, the end seems near—and Andrés is prepared for it. But a move from the city to the countryside, and an unexpected accident, disrupt his bleak expectations. There, a growing friendship with MariaJó opens up new possibilities. Through their conversations, themes like disability, environmental crisis, and family reshape their reality and spark hope for a better future.

Author(s)

Freddy Gonçalves
Da Silva

Illustrator(s)

Óscar Hernández

Publisher

Planeta

Year of Publication

2017

ISBN

9789802717545

Genre

Narrative

Reading Level

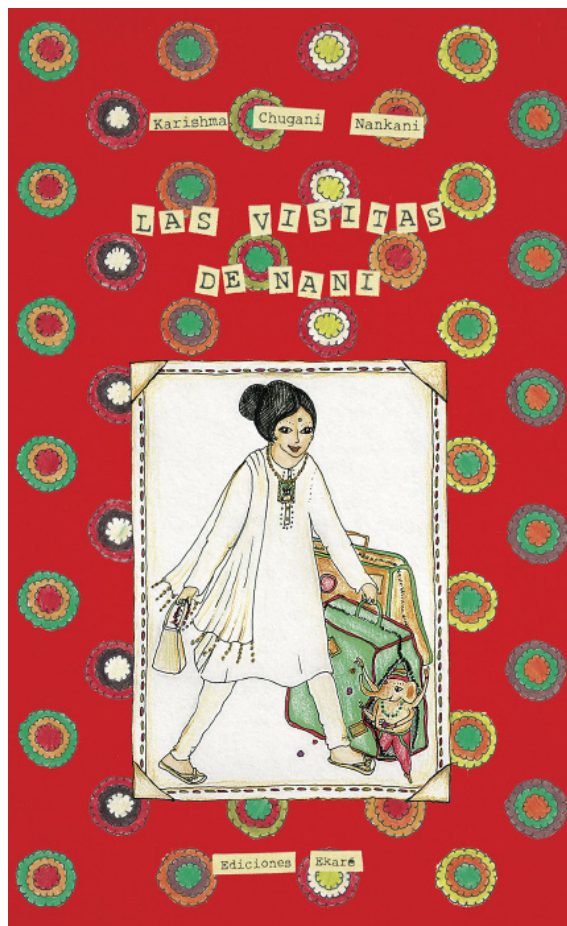
Independent readers

Number of Pages

158

Associated SDG

10 – Reduced Inequalities



Nani's Visits

This emotional portrait of Nani—the author and illustrator’s grandmother—blends news, travel, and recipes into a heartfelt map of memories. It reflects the challenges faced by an Indian woman across the 20th and 21st centuries. Rich in family scenes, gifts, and traditions, the book highlights powerful dialogues between women, showing how identity and affection are shaped through shared experiences.

Author(s)

Karishma Chugani
Nankani

Illustrator(s)

Karishma Chugani
Nankani

Publisher

Ediciones Ekare

Year of Publication

2018

ISBN

9788494811074

Genre

Picture Book

Reading Level

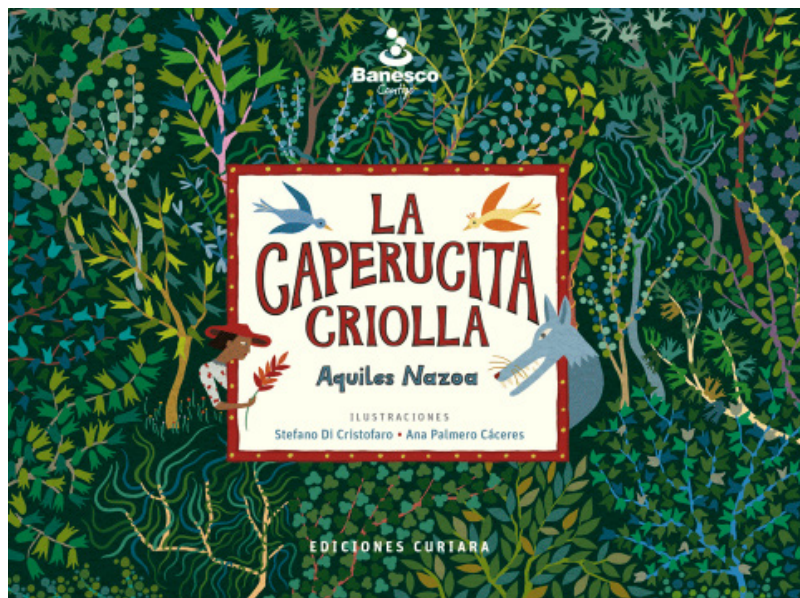
Independent readers

Number of Pages

103

Associated SDG

5 – Gender Equality



Author(s)
Aquiles Nazoa

Illustrator(s)
Stefano Di Cristofaro,
Ana Palmero Cáceres

Publisher
Ediciones Curiara

Year of Publication
2022

ISBN
9789807980005

Genre
Picture Book

Reading Level
Early readers

Number of Pages
32

Associated SDG
5 – Gender Equality

The Native Little Riding Hood

With everyday language and humor, Aquiles Nazoa reimagines Little Red Riding Hood in a rhyming, theatrical version where the clever heroine quickly outwits the wolf. First published in 1955, this edition brings the classic tale to life with illustrations that pay tribute to Venezuelan folk art, evoking the work of painters like Feliciano Carvallo and Víctor Millán. It invites readers to explore their heritage and reimagine familiar stories with creativity.

Other publications from Cerlalc



I Cerlalc • IBBY Catalog
of Children's Books for
Sustainable Development

↗ 2021



I Cerlalc • IBBY Catalog
of Children's Books for
Sustainable Development

↗ 2020



Nesting Among Words:
Guidelines for Promoting
Reading in Early Childhood

↗ 2020

