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| Writing is sharing…you never know when something you have written will make a difference in another person’s life.  You enjoy talking about things you like, things that interest and satisfy you. Write about them.  I share stories that give me joy.  **Joe Hayes**  *The Day It Snowed Tortillas, El Cucuy,*  *(many folktales)* | Most of my books are inspired by historical figures who found hope in situations that must have seemed hopeless. I chose these stories because I feel that the themes of freedom and peace are just as relevant today as they were long ago.  People often ask why I write my stories in verse…the answer is simple. Poetry makes me happy. Even when I write about difficult subjects, I find solace in the beauty of language.  **Margarita Engle (National Young People’s**  **Poet Laureate)**  Drum Dream Girl, Enchanted Air |
| I love creating books that are bilingual, with my two beautiful languages, English and Spanish, side by side on the page.  Perhaps it is the border-dwellers—those of us who straddle multiple cultures and communities—who can help us celebrate our connectedness. I hope the literature I create inspires children to open their minds and hearts to the wholeness and beauty within us all.  **Monica Brown**  *Marisol McDonald series, My Name is*  *Celia, My Name is Gabito, (and many other*  *Biographies), Maya’s Blanket* | I entered the new experience of learning how to read English through the world of picture books.  There was something else in books that caught me by surprise… I could find books that depicted people, children, and even animals who lived in the Mexican culture that was familiar to me. I began to develop a new sense of pride and value… I wanted more books like those—and more of that eruption of feelings that came every time I found a book that celebrated people like me...  **Yuyi Morales**  *Nino Wrestles the World, Just a Minute,*  *Just in Case* |
| It is important to read and write and celebrate books that reflect a child’s experiences and culture. I have noticed that when a young reader sees in a book people who look, talk, or behave like him and his family, that reader feels a pride in himself and those around him.  **Duncan Tonatiuh**  *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote, Funny*  *Bones, Separate is Never Equal* | Sometimes I get ideas when I read the newspaper- ideas for my books, and ideas for the pictures that will tell the story in my books.  Some of my books start with me making pictures, and (some) I started with the words. In a picture book, going back and forth between the text and the pictures is an important part of telling the story. The pictures can tell things that the words don’t, and the words tell what the pictures can’t.  **Jeanette Winter**  *Biblioburro* |

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| My job is to help children understand that they have more things in common with children of other cultures than differences.  I am still amazed when people won’t buy my books because they aren’t all in English. The country is changing. The world is changing. We need books that will help bring people together by their common experiences instead of set them apart by their differences.  **Susan Middleton Enya**  *Rubia and the Three Osos, Little Roja Riding*  *Hood, Fire! Fuego! Brave Bomberos!* | Because I was born under a fascist dictatorship, my access to books was very limited and content from anywhere outside our borders practically impossible. I believed that what I read was actually the reality of the world- until a scholarship brought me to Trenton, Michigan, when I was sixteen. Since then I have traveled nonstop, through books, trains, and planes, and I know for sure, that is one way to educate for a global, anti-bias society.  **F. Isabel Campoy**  *Maybe Something Beautiful, Yes! We Are*  *Latinos* |
| I send my stories and poems out to the world wrapped in the hope that children will recognize some of their own feelings, questions, and fears, that my words awaken their own dreams, offering validation and comfort, support and inspiration, just as books provided me in my childhood and have continued to do throughout life.  **Alma Flor Ada**  *My Name Is Maria Isabel, Island Treasures,*  *Under the Royal Palms, Yes! We Are Latinos,*  *Dancing Home* | I’m going to be honest. As a young child, I never once wondered why I didn’t see myself or my family in books. I’m not sure why. Like many children, I went to school, obedient and unquestioning. Once I entered college and began a career in education, I began to wonder how different my reading experience might have been if I had read just one book with which I could identify. *Just one.*  **Pam Munoz Ryan**  *Esperanza Rising, Becoming Naomi Leon,*  *The Dreamer, Mice and Beans* |
| As a writer I feel that my books are successful when they provide a magical means of transport from the reader’s world into the life of another. If this new perspective creates empathy and understanding, I sleep soundly at night.  **Enrique Flores-Galbis**  *90 Miles to Havana* | I wondered how writing about Latino children’s literature might be received. After all, I am not Latino. I asked Latino educator across the country what they thought…they said the issue was quality, not race. They respected my ability to select high-quality children’s books and write about them so teachers could use them with integrity in their teaching.  **Ruth Culham**  *Dream Wakers*, numerous books on the  traits of writing |