

# From *Arrullos* to *Púberman*: Recent Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents

By Isabel Schon

From *Arrullos y caricias* for the little ones, to a sampling of good and not-so-good bilingual editions, to treasured Grimm collections and traditional tales from Mexico and Peru, to a most candid paperback with suggestive cartoons and a popular gothic novel for adolescents, these recently published books in Spanish for children and adolescents will appeal to many readers—and offend a few adults.

## For the Young

Chen, Chih-Yuan. *Guji Guji*. La Jolla, Calif: Kane/Miller, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. Trans. by María Fernanda Pulido Duarte. ISBN 978-1-933605-34-0, \$7.95 (pb). Gr. Preschool–3.

Raised from an egg by *Mamá pata* (Mother Duck), Guji Guji is delighted with his life as a duckling, even though he doesn't look like one—he looks more like a crocodile. One day he meets three mean crocodiles who make fun of him and insist that he deliver his duck family for their dinner. But Guji Guji finds a way to outsmart the crocodiles and enjoy his life as a *crocopato* (croco-duck). Chen's engaging double-page illustrations, with warm blue and earth tones, are as satisfying as Pulido Duarte's fluid Spanish rendition of this title, originally published in Taiwan. Young Spanish speakers will appreciate this loving family that ignores its differences and celebrates its uniqueness.

Dayton, Connor. *Choppers*. ISBN 978-1-4042-7612-3.

———. *Cool Bikes/Motos cool*. ISBN 978-1-4042-7613-0.

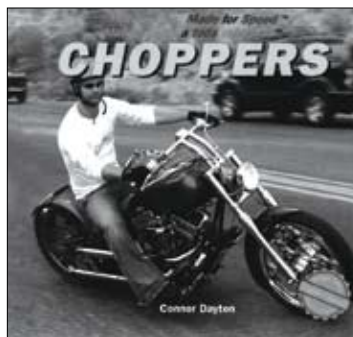
———. *Dirt Bikes*. ISBN 978-1-4042-7610-9.

———. *Street Bikes/Motos de calle*. ISBN 978-1-4042-7614-7.

———. *Superbikes*. ISBN 978-1-4042-7611-6.

———. *Tricks with Bikes/Trucos con la moto*. ISBN 978-1-4042-7615-4.

Ea. vol.: New York: Rosen/Buenas Letras, 2007. 24 pp. Bilingual ed. Spanish translation by Eduardo Alamán. Series: Motorcycles: Made for Speed!/Motocicletas a Toda Velocidad. \$21.25. Gr. 1–2.



Spanish rendition in a lighter font. Simple bilingual glossaries with English pronunciation guides make this series even more appealing to beginning readers of English and Spanish.

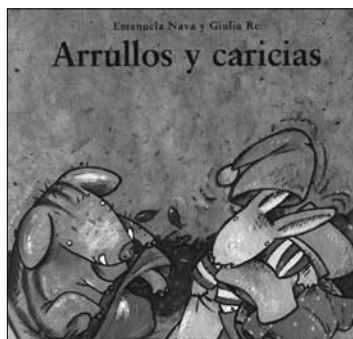
Nava, Emanuela and Re, Giulia. *Arrullos y caricias* (Kisses and Hugs). ISBN 84-667-5199-8.

———. *Una comida sorpresa* (A Surprise Meal). ISBN: 84-667-5200-5.

———. *Gotas y goterones* (Raindrops and Showers). ISBN: 84-667-5198-X.

———. *Una merienda de hielo* (Snack on Ice). ISBN: 84-667-5197-1.

Ea. vol.: Madrid: Anaya, 2006. 24 pp. Trans. from Italian by Mario Merlino. Series: Mi Primera Sopa. \$10.95. Gr. Preschool.



Spanish speakers (or learners) can understand. After a day of

Young motorcycle enthusiasts will be delighted with this simple bilingual series about the design, history, and special preferences and abilities of the riders of choppers, superbikes, cool dirt bikes, and street bikes as well as the excitement of bike tricks. Candid color photos face an easy-to-read English text, followed by a smooth, easy

Spanish rendition in a lighter font. Simple bilingual glossaries with English pronunciation guides make this series even more appealing to beginning readers of English and Spanish.

Nava, Emanuela and Re, Giulia. *Arrullos y caricias* (Kisses and Hugs). ISBN 84-667-5199-8.

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Ea. vol.: Madrid: Anaya, 2006. 24 pp. Trans. from Italian by Mario Merlino. Series: Mi Primera Sopa. \$10.95. Gr. Preschool.

The latest entries in this sturdy board book series will delight toddlers as they accompany Pedro Conejo in search of new friends around the world. Originally published by Carthusia in Milan, Italy, each title has a most appealing combination of bold black lines, colorful spreads, and a simple one- or two-sentence text that young



play in the forest (in *Arrullos y caricias*), Pedro Conejo hands out pajamas to all his friends. When they moan and groan, he wonders “¿Por qué no duermen?” (Why aren’t they sleeping?). He soon realizes that each needs a kiss, a hug, or other endearments. For his friends in the jungle, Pedro Conejo delivers a sack full of carrots in *Una comida*

*sorpresa*. Although Pedro Conejo is prepared to wash his friends in the prairie, raindrops and showers disturb the fun in *Gotas y goterones*. When Pedro Conejo arrives in the South Pole with his friend Pingüino, they delight in offering ice drinks to their new friends in *Una merienda de hielo*.

Reiser, Lynn. *My Way: A Margaret and Margarita Story/A mi manera: Un cuento de Margarita y Margaret*. New York: Greenwillow, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. Bilingual ed. ISBN 978-0-06-084101-0, \$15.99. Gr. Preschool-1.

In most delightful parallel English and Spanish texts, Margaret and Margarita, two little girls, mirror their activities in their own special way. Although both fix their hair, greet their friends, and make art, each girl has her special likes. Margaret eats a sandwich for lunch, and Margarita enjoys a *quesadilla*. But both conclude, “SIEMPRE me gusta hacer las cosas contigo/I ALWAYS like to do them with you.” The simple black pen-and-watercolor illustrations of the two girls engaged in their favorite activities are as charming as the bilingual text, which sounds equally engaging in both languages. One caveat: Whereas the English text is always followed by the Spanish, both are presented in the same color, size, and font, which will certainly confuse English and Spanish learners, especially beginning readers in both languages.

Scott, Ann Herbert. *En las piernas de Mamá/On Mother’s Lap*. New York: Clarion, 2006. 28 pp. Illus. by Glo Coalson. Spanish translation by Victoria Ortiz. ISBN 978-0-618-75247-8. \$5.95. Gr. Preschool-2.

In this well-constructed bilingual board book, Miguel (Michael in the English text), a small Eskimo boy, discovers that “siempre hay lugar en las piernas de Mamá/there is always room on mother’s lap.” Coalson’s warm illustrations tenderly depict Miguel gathering his favorite toys and his beloved Puppy. Although he initially objects to including his crying baby sister, he finally agrees, “Así me gusta/It feels good.” To avoid confusion and to assist English and Spanish learners, the Spanish font is printed in brown, followed by the English in black.

### For the Middle Grades

Brill, Marlene Targ. *Bronco Charlie y el Pony Express* (Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express). Illus. by Craig Orback. ISBN

0-8225-2991-2.

Figley, Marty Rhodes. *Salvar a la Campana de la Libertad* (Saving the Liberty Bell). Illus. by Kevin Lepp. ISBN 0-8225-3094-5.

Roop, Peter and Roop, Connie. *Botones para el general Washington* (Buttons for General Washington). Illus. by Peter E. Hanson. ISBN 0-8225-6261-8.

———. *Mantén las luces encendidas, Abbie* (Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie). Illus. by Peter E. Hanson. ISBN 0-8225-3098-8.

Ross, Alice and Ross, Kent. *La Dama de Cobre* (Copper Lady). Illus. by Leslie Bowman. ISBN 0-8225-6262-6.

Schulz, Walter A. *Will y Orv* (Will and Orv). Illus. by Janet Schulz. ISBN 0-8225-6263-4.

Wetterer, Margaret K. *Kate Shelley y el tren de medianoche* (Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express). Illus. by Karen Ritz. ISBN 0-8225-3096-1.

Welch, Catherine A. *La Bandera de Estrellas Centelleantes: el himno nacional* (The Star-Spangled Banner). Illus. by Carrie H. Warwick. ISBN 0-8225-3114-3.

Ea. vol.: Minneapolis: Lerner, 2006. 48 pp. Trans. from English by translations.com. Series: Yo Solo Historia. \$23.93. Gr. 2-4.

Young Julius Miller’s greatest wish is to ride horses, especially after hearing stories about the Pony Express. Maintaining the easy-to-read and exciting text of the original, this zestful Spanish rendition tells the tale of the audacious rider, who despite rain, darkness, and unknown forests, became Bronco Charlie, the youngest rider of the Pony Express. Vivacious illustrations complement this fascinating depiction of a boy and the early mail service in the United States.



Other titles in this appealing historical fiction series feature the efforts of 11-year-old Johnny Mickley to protect *La Campana de la Independencia* from the British during the Revolutionary War in *Salvar a la Campana de la Libertad*; the dangerous missions of spies during the Revolutionary War through young John Darragh in *Botones para el general Washington*; the bravery of Abbie Burgess and her struggles to keep the oil lamps of their lighthouse burning in the winter of 1856 in *Mantén las luces encendidas, Abbie*; the history of the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of friendship between France and the United States in *La Dama de Cobre*; the first flight of Wilbur and Orville Wright and their young helper, Johnny Moore, in *Will y Orv*; the courageous actions of 15-year-old Kate to prevent a train disaster in *Kate Shelley y el tren de medianoche*; and the story of how Francis Scott Key’s poem became “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the national anthem of the United States, in

*La Bandera de Estrellas Centelleantes*. This is an excellent series to entice Spanish-speaking beginning readers (and Spanish learners) to appreciate well-known events in the history of the United States.

Grimm, Jacob and Grimm, Wilhelm. *Caperucita Roja y otros cuentos I* (Little Red Riding Hood and Other Stories I). 236 pp. Illus. by Jordi Vila Delclòs. ISBN 84-667-5383-4.

———. *La Bella Durmiente y otros cuentos II* (Sleeping Beauty and Other Stories II). 262 pp. Illus. by Jesús Gabán. ISBN: 84-667-5384-2.

———. *Piel de Oso y otros cuentos III* (Bearskin and Other Stories III). 272 pp. Illus. by Pablo Auladell. ISBN 84-667-5385-0.

———. *La llave de oro y otros cuentos IV* (The Golden Key and Other Stories IV). 208 pp. Illus. by Gabriel Pacheco. ISBN: 84-667-5386-9.

Ea. vol.: Madrid: Anaya, 2006. Trans. from German by María Antonia Seijo Castroviejo. Series: Cuentos Completos. \$21.95. Gr. 2–6.



This four-volume series is an excellent Spanish rendition of the complete collection of stories by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, *Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, first published in Berlin, from 1812 to 1817. With a few full-page and numerous smaller illustrations, these stories resonate with the beloved characters, exciting plots, and satisfying endings that generations of children around the world know and enjoy. The stories vary in length from a few paragraphs to seven pages. Each volume includes

a most insightful and informative prologue about the stories and their authors that serious readers should not miss.

*Caperucita Roja y otros cuentos I*, with 39 stories, includes such favorites as *La Cencienta* (Cinderella), *El sastrecillo valiente* (The Brave Little Tailor), and *Los músicos de Bremen* (The Musicians of Bremen). *La Bella Durmiente y otros cuentos II*, 51 stories, features cherished tales such as *Blancanieves* (Snow White) and *El Enano Saltarín* (Rumpelstiltskin) along with less well-known ones such as *El clavel* (The Carnation). *Piel de Oso y otros cuentos III*, 63 stories, contains a few popular stories such as *Fernando fiel y Fernando infiel* (Faithful Ferdinand and Faithless Ferdinand) and *Los cuatro hermanos habilidosos* (The Four Clever Brothers) as well as other tales. *La llave de oro y otros cuentos IV* is a collection of 59 lesser-known Grimm stories that nonetheless vibrate with the freshness and grace of the more noted tales.

Lessem, Don. *Dinosaurios con plumas* (Feathered Dinosaurs). ISBN 0-8225-6242-1.

———. *Los dinosaurios más inteligentes* (Smartest Dinosaurs). ISBN 0-8225-6245-6.

———. *Los dinosaurios más mortíferos* (Deadliest Dinosaurs). ISBN 0-8225-6240-5.

———. *Los dinosaurios más rápidos* (Fastest Dinosaurs). ISBN 0-8225-6241-3.

———. *Gigantes marinos de la época de los dinosaurios* (Sea Giants of Dinosaur Time). ISBN 0-8225-6244-8.

Ea. vol.: Minneapolis: Lerner, 2007. 32 pp. Illus. by John Bindon. Trans. from English by translations.com. Series: Conoce a los Dinosaurios. \$23.93. Gr. 2–4.

Like the previous titles in this series, these highlight distinct characteristics of various extinct, often gigantic, carnivorous or herbivorous dinosaurs that existed millions of years ago. The dramatically detailed color illustrations, photographs, charts, maps, and a most understandable Spanish rendition will capture the interest



of young Spanish-speaking dino fans. Little-known or unusual aspects of feathered dinosaurs, including the evolution of colorful feathers to attract a mate or large feathers to help them keep warm, are described in *Dinosaurios con plumas*. Smart Troodon dinosaurs that would dig small rodents out of the ground and small but smarter microraptors are among those discussed in *Los dinosaurios más inteligentes*. Deadly dinosaurs with pointy destructive teeth and other rapacious dinosaurs are portrayed in *Los dinosaurios más mortíferos*. Fast dinosaurs that could outrun their predators to *Struthiomimus*, the fastest, that could have run up to 60 miles per hour are chronicled in *Los dinosaurios más rápidos*. Giant sea reptiles such as *Archelon*, an enormous turtle, and *Mosasaurus*, one of the deadliest, are depicted in *Gigantes marinos de la época de los dinosaurios*. Each title includes a glossary, which unfortunately lacks definite articles. How will Spanish learners know if it is *la* or *el* reptil?

Monreal, Violeta. *Las espadas del Cid* (The Swords of the Cid). Madrid: Bruño, 2006. 45 pp. Illus. by the author. ISBN 84-216-9760-9, \$22.95. Gr. 3–5.

Based on the adventures of Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar (1043–1099), better known as *el Cid*, this fast-paced retelling highlights aspects of the life of the Spanish soldier and national hero whose military exploits, including the capture of Valencia and other battles, are widely admired in the Spanish-speaking world. Colorfully detailed, computer-generated, almost cartoonish illustrations depict life in feudal Spain with a great sense of humor and much ingenuity. Beginning with the Cid's childhood in Vivar, a

small village in Spain, and ending with his daughters' marriages to Spanish royalty, this appealing large-format publication is a lively introduction to Spain's long-cherished epic poem.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *La Tierra de los Muertos: Cuentos de la Odisea* (Tales from the Odyssey II: The Land of the Dead). Bogotá: Grupo Editorial Norma, 2006. 106 pp. Illus. by Julián De Narváez. Trans. from English by Laura Quintana. ISBN 958-04-9500-9, \$10.95 (pb). Gr. 4-8.

Maintaining the swiftly paced episodes, the simple, engaging narrative, and the brief chapters and succinct sentences of the original, Quintana's lucid Spanish rendition relates the second volume, in which *Odiseo* (Odysseus) and his fleet continue their difficult journey home. Before they can return to *Ítaca* (Ithaca), they must defeat giant cannibals, outwit the beautiful witch Cerce, and travel to the feared *Tierra de los Muertos* (Land of the Dead). For the Spanish edition, an extensive afterword by Héctor Hoyos presents information about major Greek gods and goddesses, Greek beliefs, and Homer, and compares Greek and Latin American heroes. Spanish speakers, especially from the Americas, will appreciate this sleek introduction to Homer and Greek mythology.

#### For Adolescents

Caballero, Paola. *Los siete mejores cuentos mexicanos* (The Seven Best Mexican Tales). Illus. by Fabricio Vanden Broeck. ISBN 958-04-8495-3.

Rocha Vivas, Miguel. *Los siete mejores cuentos peruanos* (The Seven Best Peruvian Tales). Illus. by Carmen García. ISBN 958-04-8496-1.

Ea. vol.: Bogotá: Grupo Editorial Norma, 2006. 56 pp. Series: Los Siete Mejores Cuentos. \$11.95. Gr. 5-8.

These well-written collections provide a most delightful view of the Náhuatl (Mexico) and Quechua (Peru) cultures. *Los siete mejores cuentos mexicanos* includes seven well-known tales that depict life in pre-Columbian Uxmal in Yucatán; the end of Pancho the thief; the frailties of Clemente *un hombre perezoso . . . haragán . . . flojo . . . y además, mentiroso* (a lazy man . . . indolent . . . careless . . . and, in addition, a liar); and other enigmatic personalities from the oral tradition of Mexico. Vanden Broeck's colorful full-page illustrations accompany each tale. *Los siete mejores cuentos peruanos* incorporates seven tales about wise animals, the brave Shipibo people, a devoted mother, exquisite musicians, and other personages that bring the Quechua culture to life. In addition to García's full-page illustrations, which joyously depict the fauna and flora of Peru, these tales include numerous words characteristic of Peruvian Spanish—*quinua, cuy, carachupa,*

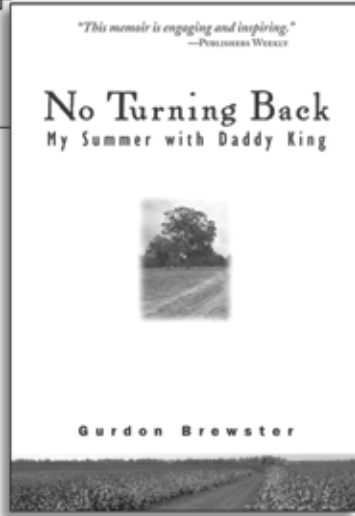
*picuro*—which highlight the special appeal of Peruvian customs and traditions. Also in this series is *Los siete mejores cuentos centroamericanos* (The Seven Best Tales from Central America).

Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. *El Príncipe de la Niebla* (The Prince of Fog). New York: Rayo/Harper Collins, 2006. 230 pp. ISBN 978-0-06-128438-0, \$21.95. Gr. 8-12.

Originally published in 1993 in Spain to great success, this is the first of a series of novels for adolescents—*El Palacio de la medianoche* (The Midnight Palace), *Las luces de septiembre* (September Lights), and *Marina* (Marina)—by the popular Spanish author. Ruiz Zafón states that he wrote *El Príncipe de la Niebla* because this is the novel he would like to have read when he was in his teens. The novel features 13-year-old Max, his sister Alicia, and their new friend, Roland, who together uncover the strange circumstances that led to the death of young Jacob. Full of mystery, death, magic, and romance, the fast-paced story is set in Spain during the Civil War. This gothic novel will not disappoint lovers of the fantastic eager to solve the machinations of the diabolic *Príncipe de la Niebla*.

Villegas, María and Kent, Jennie. *Púberman*. Bogotá: Villegas Editores, 2006. 271 pp. Illus. by Ivan Chacón. ISBN 958-8156-77-7, \$16.95 (pb). Gr. 7-12.

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so-important themes and issues confronting adolescents today.

For additional high-quality books in Spanish for children and adolescents, please visit the Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents Web site: [www.csusm.edu/csb/](http://www.csusm.edu/csb/).

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