



## **The Américas Award: Honoring Latino/a Children's and Young Adult Literature of the Americas (Children and Youth in Popular Culture)**

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First awarded in 1993, the Américas Award is given in recognition of books that authentically and engagingly portray Latino/as in Latin America, the Caribbean or 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 unique in that it selects Latino/a youth literature for classroom use and in that it focuses on the entire Western Hemisphere.

Scholars from the fields of literature, education, library science, and theater engage with Latino/a Critical Race Theory (LatCrit) in this collection of essays about the Américas Award, the Award-winning and honored books, and the contexts in which the books are used. This collection offers essays on the history of the award, close readings of Award-winning and honored books situated in the classroom, and discussions of how best to use the books in the classroom, library and theater.

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