

# READING LATIN AMERICA

WELCOMING AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE INTO YOUR CLASSROOMS.

Luciano Marzulli

K-16 Outreach Coordinator



**CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

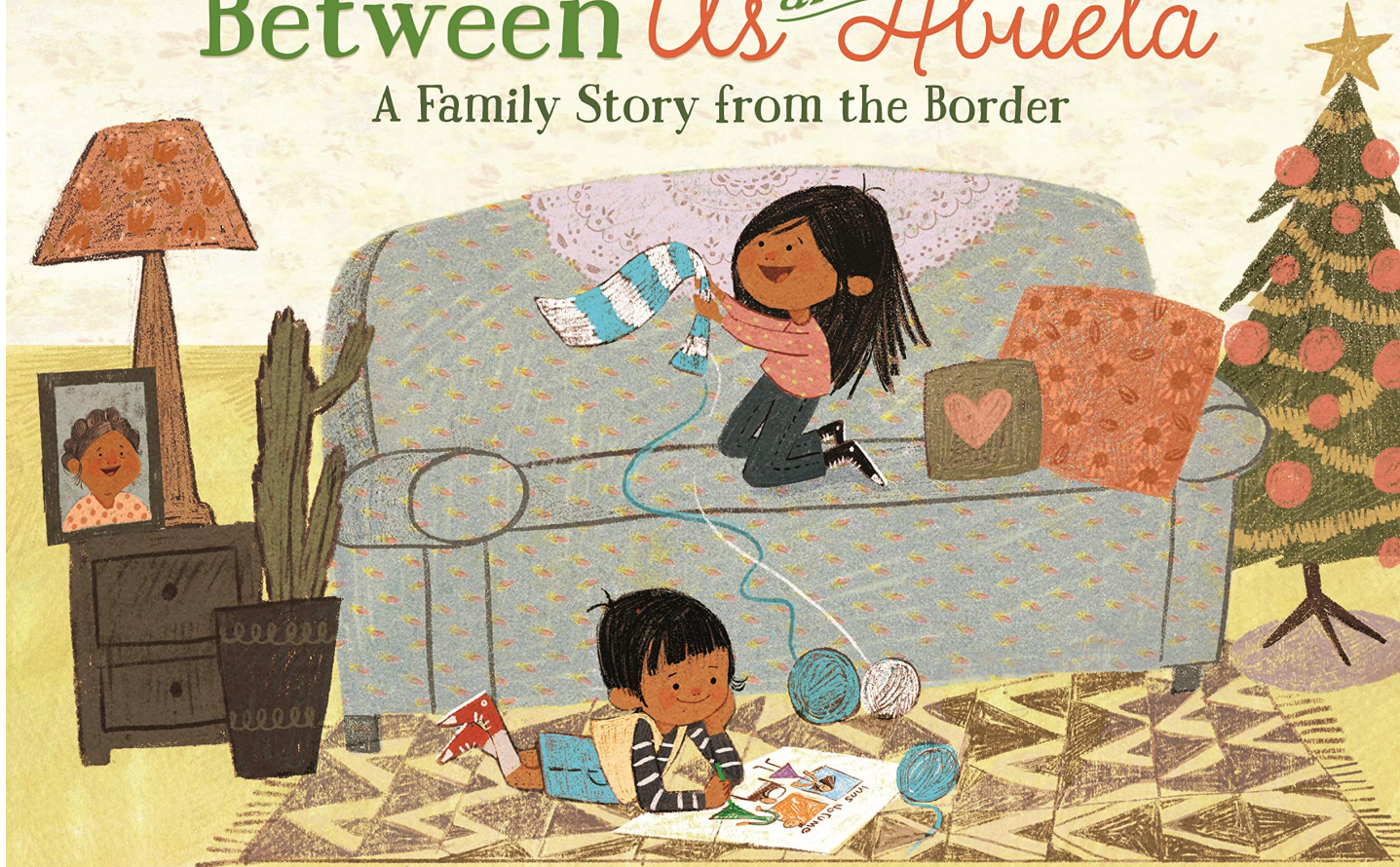
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH





# Between *Us and* Abuela

A Family Story from the Border



Mitali Perkins

ILLUSTRATIONS BY Sara Palacios

- This session will provide an opportunity to take an in depth look at the 2020 Américas Award Winning title: ***Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border*** written by Mitali Perkins and illustrated by Sara Palacios.







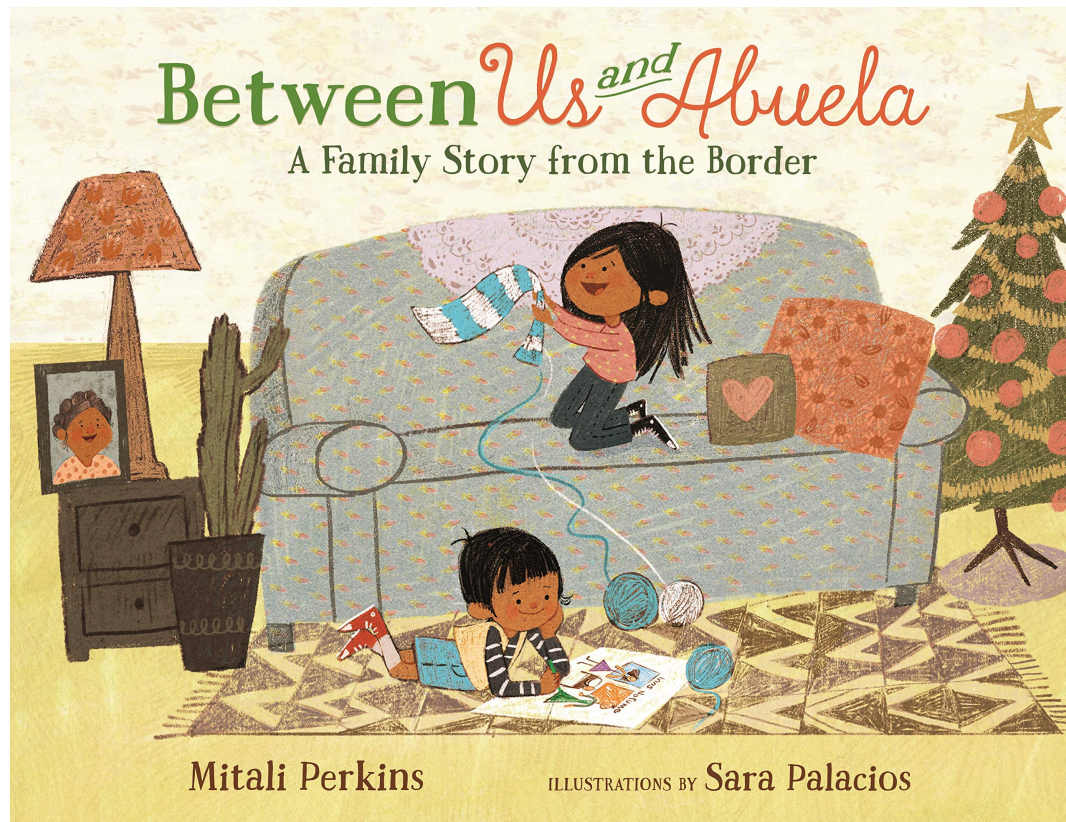
## AMÉRICAS AWARD

- CLASP founded the Américas Award in 1993 to encourage and commend authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx in the United States, and to provide teachers with recommendations for classroom use. CLASP offers up to two annual book awards, together with a commended list of titles.





# BETWEEN US AND ABUELA: A FAMILY STORY FROM THE BORDER



- Siblings, María and Juan, who eagerly anticipate a visit with their Abuela at the US-Mexico border to celebrate La Posada Sin Fronteras. It has been five years since their last visit, so each child is creating something special to give to Abuela, though unsure of how they will pass their gifts through the fence at the border. María creates a beautiful scarf for her grandmother to wear home, and Juan colors a picture of Mary and Joseph, images representing the tradition of Las Posadas. As the visit draws to a close, María devises a plan to share the picture with her grandmother and is encouraged when visitors on both sides of the fence cheer her on. This story is filled with beautiful and vibrant illustrations created by Sara Palacios, a past recipient of the Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Award. Perkin's debut picture book is a timely introduction of families separated by borders and will lead to thoughtful conversations of love, determination, family, and hope!







# MITALI PERKINS

- Mitali Perkins has written novels for young readers, including *You Bring the Distant Near* (a National Book Award Nominee, a Walter Honor Book, A South Asia Book Award Winner, A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, and a Shelf Awareness 2017 Best Book of the Year), *Rickshaw Girl* (a NYPL Top 100 Book) and *Bamboo People* (an ALA Top 10 YA novel). Mitali was born in India and currently resides in Northern California.
- <https://www.mitaliperkins.com>





# SARA PALACIOS

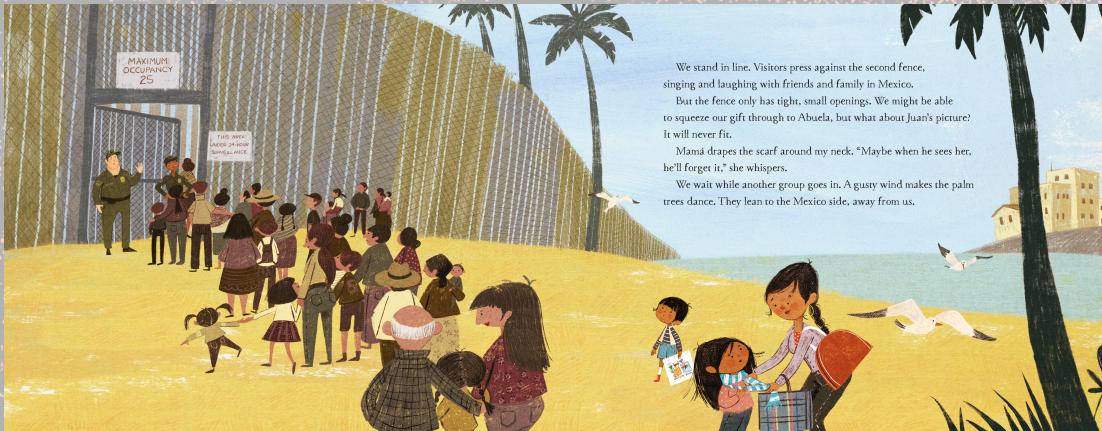
Sara Palacios is the recipient of the 2012 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Award. A native of Mexico, Sara graduated from the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico City and went on to earn BFA and MFA degrees in Illustration from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Her books include *How to Code a Sandcastle* and *How to Code a Rollercoaster*.

<https://www.sarapalaciosillustrations.com>





# Let's Read!



We stand in line. Visitors press against the second fence,  
singing and laughing with friends and family in Mexico.  
But the fence only has tight, small openings. We might be able  
to squeeze our gift through to Abuela, but what about Juan's picture?  
It will never fit.  
Mamá drapes the scarf around my neck. "Maybe when he sees her,  
he'll forget it," she whispers.  
We wait while another group goes in. A gusty wind makes the palm  
trees dance. They lean to the Mexico side, away from us.

- Reading of the title with the Author Mitali Perkins. For just the title looks at minute marker 12:55-20:22 on the following link:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGJyt7EnVWo>





# U.S. MEXICO BORDER IN CONTEXT

Border established with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

The border region historically and currently traverses several territories of sovereign indigenous nations.



## CHANGES TO THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER FROM 1835 TO 1848

- 1820** - Spain opens the northeastern region of Mexico (later the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas) to Anglo-American settlement.
- 1821** - Mexico wins its independence from Spain.
- 1830** - Wary of the swelling influx of immigrants from the United States, the Mexican government legislates against further settlement in Coahuila and Texas by Anglo-Americans.
- October 1835 to April 1836** - Texas Revolution
- May 14, 1836** - Republic of Texas recognized by Mexico in the Treaty of Velasco.
- 1845** - United States annexes Texas.
- January 1846** - U.S. troops commanded by Gen. Zachary Taylor cross the Nueces River (considered the border by Mexico) and advance to the Rio Grande (considered the border by the United States).
- April 1846 to February 1848** - Mexican-American War
- February 2, 1848** - Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed. Mexico cedes to the United States nearly all the territory now included in the states of New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, and western Colorado for \$15 million.





# MEXICAN IMMIGRATION IN CONTEXT

Immigration from Mexico historically has occurred as a result of a lack of employment opportunities in Mexico, push factors, as well as the need of U.S. Industries and agriculture to employ laborers, pull factors.

Of particular note are:

- The influx of Mexicans fleeing the political turmoil during the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1917.
- The Bracero Program that lasted from 1942-1964 in which Mexican laborers were contracted guest workers.
- The economic upheaval caused by the The North American Free Trade Agreement (1994) leading to the most recent and sustained influx of immigrants from Mexico for a decade, arguably longer.







# ADDITIONAL READINGS & RESOURCE LINKS...

UC San Diego Border Studies Resources:

<https://ucsd.libguides.com/c.php?g=408733&p=3091512>

How the Border Between the United States and Mexico Was Established

<https://www.britannica.com/story/how-the-border-between-the-united-states-and-mexico-was-established>

One page overview on CLASP website:

[http://claspprograms.org/uploads/Between\\_Us\\_and\\_Abuela-1603808312.pdf](http://claspprograms.org/uploads/Between_Us_and_Abuela-1603808312.pdf)

Recording of a book talk with Mitali Perkins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGJyt7EnVWo>

An exploration of Border Walls

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/a-brief-history-of-border-walls>

Mexican Immigration to the United States

<https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-146#acrefore-9780199329175-e-146-div1-5>





RESOURCES TO HONOR LATINX LITERATURE  
WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

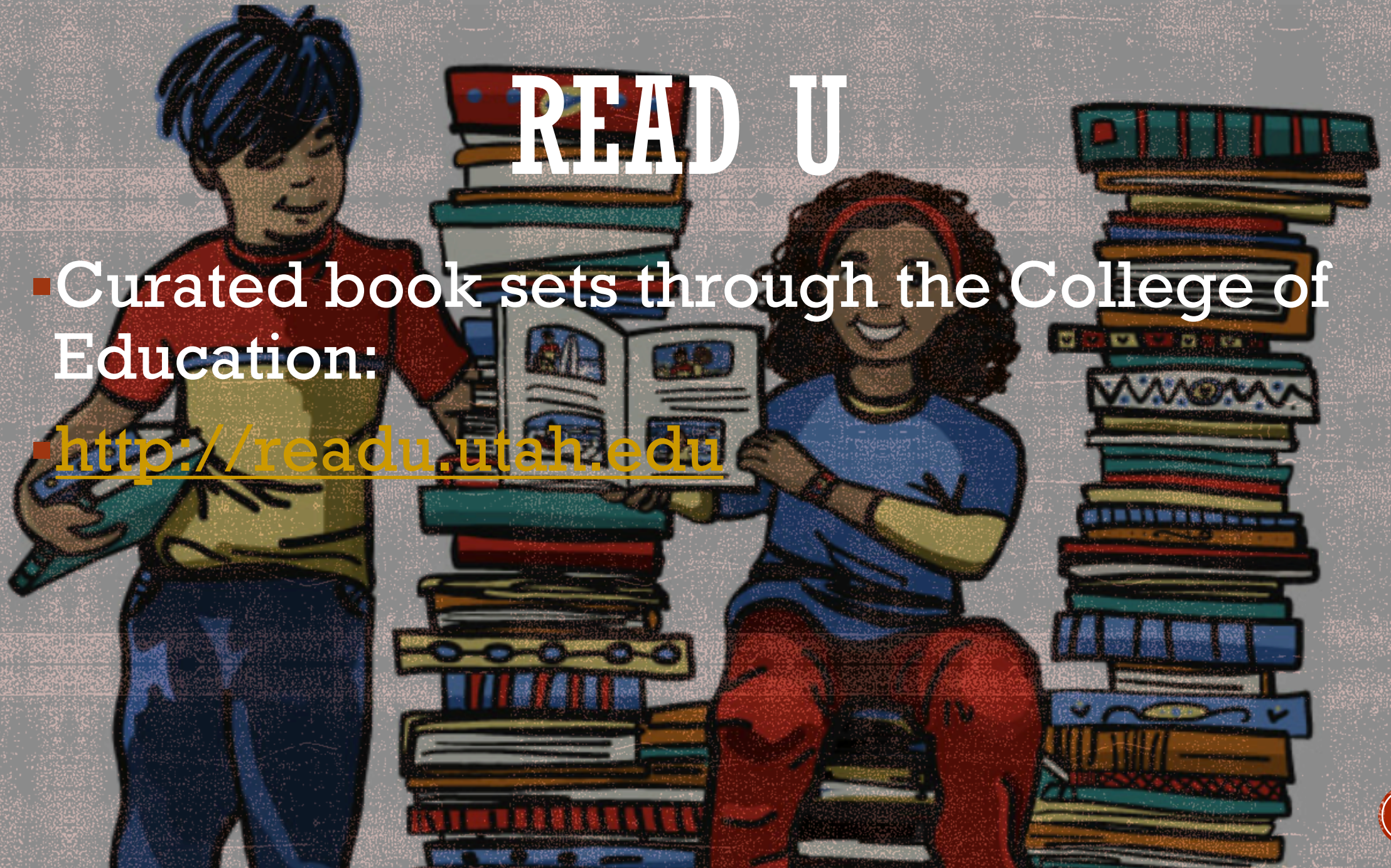
# AMÉRICAS AWARD RESOURCES

- CLASP website
- <http://claspprograms.org/pages/detail/86/Americas-Award->



# READ U

- Curated book sets through the College of Education:
- <http://readu.utah.edu>





# Let's work together!

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