



**Pat Mora**

**Pat Mora composed the poem, “Bookjoy Around the World,” for the 2013 International Children’s Book Day poster. The poet reflects on her writing goals: “I wanted this poem about bookjoy to convey how books connect us, a circle of readers. Using images I hoped children would enjoy, I included the wonders we find as, around the world, we turn pages.”**

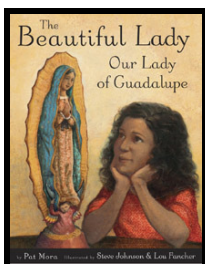
**Pat Mora will also be a featured speaker at the 10<sup>th</sup> Regional IBBY Conference in 2013.**

Pat Mora is a celebrated author of fiction, nonfiction and poetry books for children and adults. She is a popular presenter and tireless literacy advocate. Her picture books are available in Spanish and English, and many are bilingual texts. In an interview with Jeanette Larson for *Book Links*, Pat shares that her journey as an author began in a home filled with books. She grew up in El Paso, Texas with a family who loved books and reading. Pat writes about what she loves most: the topic of family, the setting of the desert, and the theme of Mexican culture.

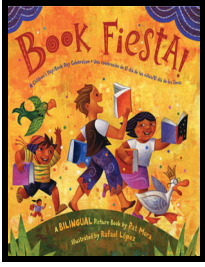
In 1996 Pat Mora founded a family literacy initiative charged with linking all children to books, languages and cultures: El día de los niños / El día de los libros; Children's Day / Book Day. Día is dedicated to promoting and celebrating “bookjoy,” a word coined by Pat, which means “reading books makes us happy.” Committed to nurturing families of readers, this yearlong celebration culminates around the end of April each year.

Pat Mora has received many prestigious children’s book awards, including the Abuelos Book Award, the Golden Kite Award, the Pura Belpré Author Honor Award, and the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children’s Book Award. Her books have also appeared repeatedly on a wide array of recommended book lists, including the ALA Notable Books List, the Amelia Bloomer Project Recommended List, and the Américas Award Commended List. Visit “About Pat” on her website to download a pdf brochure of her books.

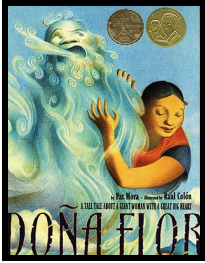
### **Selected Bibliography**



*The Beautiful Lady: Our Lady of Guadalupe* (2012). During their yearly tradition, Grandma Lupita tells Rose the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s appearance to Juan Diego. Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, Mora’s newest book introduces young readers to one of Mexico’s most beloved stories.



*Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day; Celebremos El día de los niños/El día de los libros* (2009). Children from around the world are pictured celebrating the joy of books and reading on Children's Day/Book Day. Illustrated by Rafael López, this bilingual book in Spanish and English ends with suggestions for how readers can host their own Book Fiesta.



*Doña Flor: A Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart* (2005). In this tall tale set in the American Southwest, Doña Flor is the benevolent caretaker of her tiny village. When the villagers are scared by a loud noise, the brave giant sets out to protect them. Pat Mora won a Pura Belpré Author Honor Award and a Golden Kite Award for *Doña Flor*, and Raul Colón won the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award for his pencil and watercolor etchings.

### Links of Interest

- <http://www.patmora.com/>  
Official home page of Pat Mora
- <http://sharebookjoy.blogspot.com/>  
Pat Mora's Blog: "Celebrating the zing of creativity, reading and Día"
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/mora/>  
Reading Rockets video interview with Pat Mora
- <http://www.patmora.com/morafiles/other/booklinks2011.pdf>  
Jeanette Larson's interview: "Talking with Pat Mora," *Book Links*, January 2011, p. 23-26

**Pat Mora is a member of USBBY. Why not join her?**



This featured author profile was prepared by Lisa Patrick, February 2013.