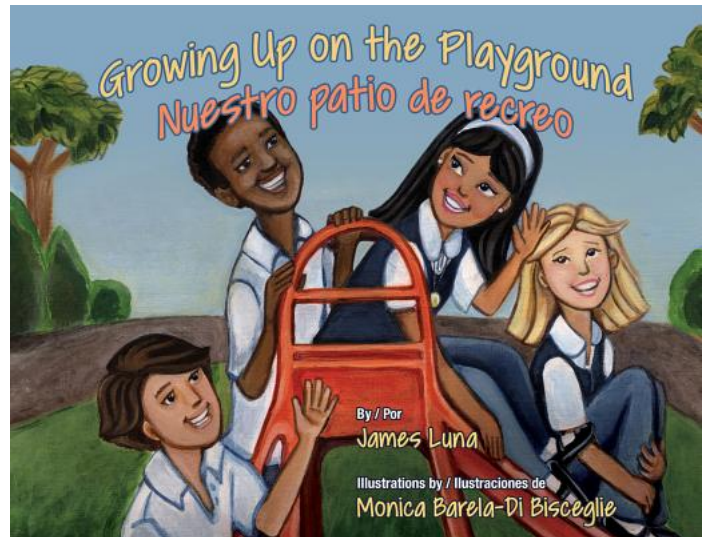


JAMES LUNA



JAMES LUNA is an elementary school teacher in Riverside, California. He is the author of a short, bilingual novel for intermediate readers, *A Mummy in Her Backpack / Una momia en su mochila* (Piñata Books, 2012), and two picture books, *The Place Where You Live / El lugar donde vives* (Piñata Books, 2015) and *The Runaway Piggy / El cochinito fugitivo* (Piñata Books, 2010), which was selected by Texas schoolchildren as their favorite book on the Tejas Star Reading List.

Growing Up on the Playground: “On Ana’s first day of kindergarten, the slide stood like a mountain.” The other kids in her class encourage her to glide “down, down, down, to the bottom and her new friends.” Young readers will relate to these elementary school children playing outside. In first grade, Ana meets Karina, who becomes her best friend. Together, they swing higher and higher as they try to kick the sky! In second grade, Ana and her friends dangle like monkeys, eat pretend bananas and call out, “Ooo, ooo, ooo! Can you do what we do?” As they grow, the kids learn to play new games on the playground: basketball, soccer and even handball. Acclaimed children’s book author James Luna uses short, simple text and active words to depict children at play. They swing and hang, dribble and shoot, pass and kick, laugh and learn. And when they get to sixth grade, they have to say good-bye to their school’s playground. But someday they will return!

Growing Up on the Playground

RRS connection to TEKS (PK-1st grade): Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.*
- *Composition II: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres.*
- *Inquiry and research*

Vocabulary:

- Playground, monkey bars, slide, swings
- Friendship
- Kindergarten
- Elementary school, grades
- Creative play, imagination
- Sports: basketball, handball, soccer
- Teachers

Pre-reading engagement:

- What does an author do? Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the story?
- What do you think the story is about?
- What does an illustrator do?
- Read the biographies at the end of the book aloud and share your own story with a friend.
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- Learn a little information about James Luna.

While/ post reading engagement:

- Wow! What a great playground for Ana to enjoy. Make a drawing of your favorite playground.
- Ana and Karina play together. Do you have a best friend?
- More friends join the fun! What's your favorite game to play with friends.
- What happens to the friends in third grade?
- Have you ever played handball? Would you like to try?
- Soccer! Do you have a favorite soccer team?
- What do you think happens at the end of the story?
- What does Ana do when she grows up? What would you like to do when you grow up?
- Add more details to the drawing of your favorite playground and tell your best friend all about it.
- Make a welcome banner for James Luna! Decorate it with pictures of you having fun.
- Don't forget to think about questions you would like to ask James.

Useful links:

- Publisher's website: <https://artepublicopress.com/product/growing-up-on-the-playground-nuestro-patio-de-recreo/>