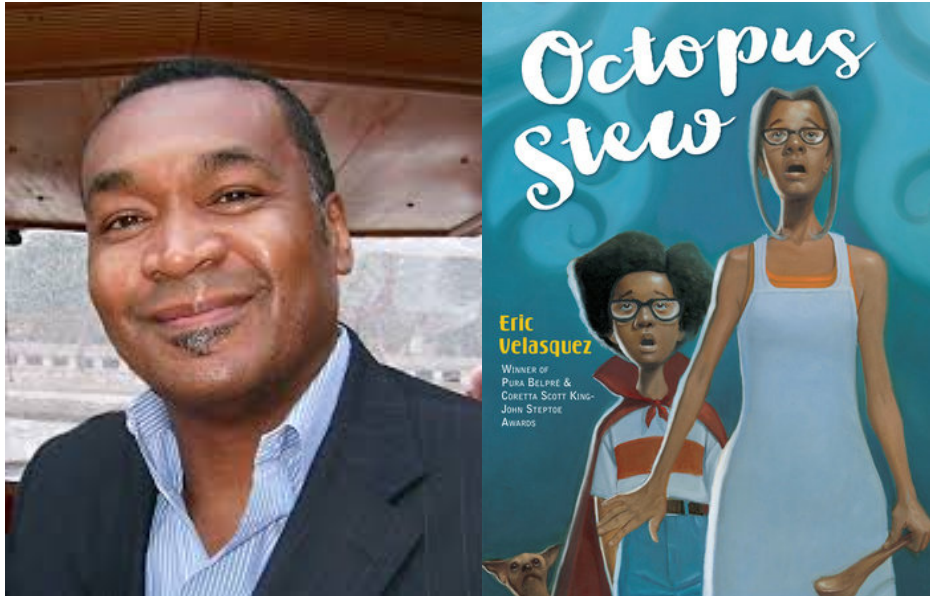


Eric Velasquez



illustrator Eric Velasquez, is an award-winning illustrator and author-illustrator whose honors include the Pura Belpré Award, the Carter G. Woodson Book Award, and the Coretta Scot King-John Steptoe Award for New Talent, and the NAACP Image Award. The son of Afro-Puerto Rican parents who encouraged music and storytelling, Eric grew up in Harlem, New York. As a child, he loved superheroes, comics, drawing, and his grandmother, much like Ramsey in *Octopus Stew*. He teaches book illustration at FIT (The Fashion Institute of Technology) and lives in Hartsdale, New York.

Octopus Stew

What do you do when an octopus captures Grandma? Put on your superhero cape and rescue her! Two stories in one from award-winning Afro-Latino artist Eric Velasquez. The octopus Grandma is cooking has grown to titanic proportions. “¡Tenga cuidado!” Ramsey shouts. “Be careful!” But it’s too late. The octopus traps Grandma! Ramsey uses both art and intellect to free his beloved abuela.

Then the story takes a surprising twist. And it can be read two ways. Open the fold-out pages to find Ramsey telling a story to his family. Keep the pages folded, and Ramsey’s octopus adventure is real.

This beautifully illustrated picture book, drawn from the author’s childhood memories, celebrates creativity, heroism, family, grandmothers, grandsons, Puerto Rican food, Latinx culture and more. With an author’s note and the Velasquez family recipe for *Octopus Stew*!

Octopus Stew

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:

- See Glossary

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?
- The book is written in English and Spanish. What do you think?
- Read the author's note 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 Eric Velasquez.

While/ post reading engagement:

- Ramsey likes to pretend that he is a superhero – Super Ram! Do you like superheroes? Which one is your favorite?
- Grandma is going to make octopus stew- do you like to eat seafood or soup? Make a drawing of your favorite meal.
- Oh no! Ramsey tries to warn his grandmother but she does not listen. Help Ramsey get his grandmother's attention!
- Loud noise in the kitchen! What happened? Make a drawing of the octopus.
- What happened to grandma? What does Ramsey do to help her?
- YAY! Grandma is safe. What is actually happening in the story?
- What happens next in Ramsey's story?
- Did you like the story?
- Go home and ask your family about a favorite recipe. You can share it with your friends at school.
- Make a welcome banner for Eric! Decorate it with your favorite pictures of your grandmother.
- Don't forget to think about questions you would like to ask Eric.

Useful links:

- Author's website: <http://www.ericvelasquez.com/>
- Publisher's website: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/605162/octopus-stew-by-written-and-illustrated-by-eric-velasquez/>
- Kirkus: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/eric-velasquez/octopus-stew/>
- School Library Journal: <https://www.slj.com/?reviewDetail=octopus-stew>