

TIP SHEET

Title: *Pedro and the Monster Eaters / Pedro y los devoradores de monstruos*

Author: Xequina María Berbér **Illustrator:** C. Rod. Unalt

Publication Date: May 31, 2024 **Pages:** 32 **Price:** \$18.95 **ISBN-13:** 978-1-55885-991-3

Trim: 8.5" x 11" **Format:** Hardcover **Ages:** 4-8 **Imprint:** Piñata Books

Pedro came from a family of artists who created papier-mâché sculptures. With newspaper, cardboard and glue, they made piñatas, masks and *mojigangas*, giant puppets used in parades and festivals in Mexico. As a boy, he helped his family by collecting newspapers in the neighborhood. When he got older, he began making the large figures himself. The family had to make new ones every year because all the *mojigangas* were burned after the events!

One day, Pedro became very sick. He had a high fever, slept a lot and had very scary nightmares. In his dreams, the giant puppets came to life and chased him. But suddenly, fierce animals with long, sharp teeth and claws came to his defense and ate up all the monsters! The animals called themselves *alebrijes*. When he was well, he began to recreate the beasts from his dream using paper and glue; he painted his creations with bright colors and intricate patterns. Soon, people came from all over to buy Pedro's monster eaters.

Loosely based on the life of artist Pedro Linares, this bilingual picture book for young readers pairs the fascinating origin story of one of Mexico's most well-known folk arts with striking illustrations of the magical creatures. This is a perfect choice for parents and teachers interested in sharing the world of art with their kids.

GENRE: Bilingual children's literature, Multicultural children's literature, Hispanic/Latino kids' books, Spanish kids' books, Kids' biographies

SELLING HANDLES:

- Bilingual picture book captures the early life and major achievement of a famed Mexican artist.
- Exposes kids to the world of art and specifically the cultural importance of folk art.
- Exquisite illustrations depict the dream world—and fantastical creatures—from which the artist's work developed and is now recognized around the globe.

AUTHOR CREDENTIALS:

XEQUINA MARÍA BERBÉR is the author of *Santora, the Good Daughter* (Xipactli, 2001), *The Mermaid Girl* (Bedazzled Ink, 2013) and a collection of short stories, *The Only Female Cross Dresser in Memphis* (Bedazzled Ink, 2021), and she co-edited *Dispatches from Lesbian America* (Bedazzled Ink, 2017). She has master's degrees in library and information science and women's spirituality. A traditional Mexican healer, she lives in Oakland, California.

C. ROD. UNALT has illustrated numerous children's books, including *¡A bailar! / Let's Dance!* (Piñata Books, 2017), educational textbooks and publications such as *Spider Magazine*. An assistant professor and program director of a BFA Illustration program in New Jersey, she earned her MFA in Illustration at the University of Hartford.