

# RESEÑAS/BOOK REVIEWS

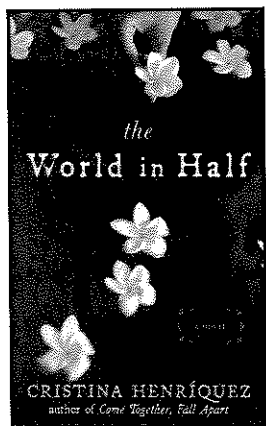
The book includes appendices with information about the authors, translators and editors. **Highly recommended.**

Reviewed by Sara Martínez, Hispanic Resource Center Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library System.

**Undocumented Immigrants and Higher Education: Si Se Puede.** Alejandra Rincón. LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2008. 281 pp. ISBN: 978-1593322922. Audience: adults, teens; academic and public libraries.

In concise and accessible language, Alejandra Rincón, Ph.D. offers historical background on the legal and legislative battles in the ten states that approved providing in-state college tuition for undocumented immigrant students between 2001–2006. Rincón uses language that is jargon free to describe legal history and will be easily understood by the lay person. The book presents supporters and naysayers alike with abundant history and well researched data. The author, clearly an advocate for out-of-status immigrant students, provides vivid descriptions of organizing efforts in support of the DREAM Act, federal legislation that would standardize access to higher education for all undocumented students. However, the overall presentation is rational and objective. An excellent appendix on in-state tuition policies from 2001–2006, photos, and an extensive bibliography are included. The intended audience is college level readers but the book is appropriate for high school seniors and adults. Given that Rincón's work is one of the only titles on this issue, this is an important addition for all academic libraries and public libraries with large Latino communities. The book is well bound and will hold up to heavy usage. **Highly recommended.**

Reviewed by Susan Luévano, Anthropology, Ethnic and Women's Studies Librarian, California State University, Long Beach.



**The World in Half.** Cristina Henríquez. New York: Riverhead Books, 2009. 305 pp. \$25.99. ISBN 978-1-59448-855-9. Audience: adults; public and academic libraries.

Cristina Henríquez's novel is about family history, secrets, and cultural identity. This novel is a breezy read, elegant yet easily understood as it touches on many complicated issues. Miraflores "Mira" Reid's mother has Alzheimer's disease. Mira accidentally learns about her long-lost Panamanian father when she finds old love letters

from him to her American-born mother. She then secretly travels to Panama City in a quest to find her father, Gatun Gallardo. While learning about her Panamanian heritage and identity, she befriends Danilo, a flower vendor and his uncle Hernan, the hotel doorman. She harbors the hope that her mother will recover once she is in touch with her long-lost love. **Recommended** for large and mid-sized public libraries, university and smaller academic libraries; a perfect choice for book clubs.

Reviewed by Lupita Garza-Grande.

## CHILDREN'S TITLES

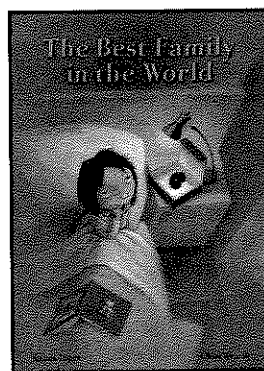


**Bait.** Alex Sanchez. New York: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2009. 256 pp. \$16.99 (Hardcover). ISBN 978-1416937722. Grades 6–9. English with some Spanish.

Sixteen-year-old Diego has a problem managing his anger; and this has led to his latest trouble with the law after he bashes a gay student at his school. The story of the teen, navigating his way through unresolved childhood trauma, represents to some extent a departure from Sanchez' previous work. The protagonist's failure to

conquer his demons from the past results in the manifestation of irrational bouts of anger and retaliation when he is provoked, getting him put on self-requested probation. His probation officer, Mr. Vidas, helps him to successfully negotiate his arduous journey to equanimity, an odyssey which forces him not only to confront his past, but to lay aside some deep-rooted prejudices. Unfortunately, the book lacked the muchness of the author's previous offerings. While it tackled some poignant subjects, its exploration was somewhat superficial, and the storyline seemed overly contrived, making it difficult to connect with its characters. **Not Recommended.**

Reviewed by Jeffrey Naidoo, Doctoral Student, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.



**The Best Family in the World.** Susana Lopez. Illus. by Ulises Wensell. Tulsa, OK: Kane Miller, 2010. First American Edition. Unpaged. \$15.99 (Hardcover). ISBN 978-1-935279-47-1. Grades K-3. English.

A delightful story of adoption, this somewhat simplistic text features young Carlota who has just been notified that her adoptive family will be coming to pick her up the next day.

That night she lies awake imagining what sort of family she might end up with. Pastry chefs? Pirates? Tiger trainers? Astronauts? As it turns out, her new family is some of each. Her mother brings her the occasional pastry, her father hunts for treasure in an empty lot, her grandmother has two cats, and her brother has decorated her room with glow-in-the-dark stars. They are indeed the best family in the world. Translated from the original Spanish *La Mejor Familia del Mundo*, this soothing story contains warm illustrations which perfectly match the text and would be appropriate for young children anticipating new changes in their family living arrangements. **Recommended.**

Reviewed by Sylvia Wolfe, Children's Librarian, Vista Branch Library, San Diego County Library, CA.