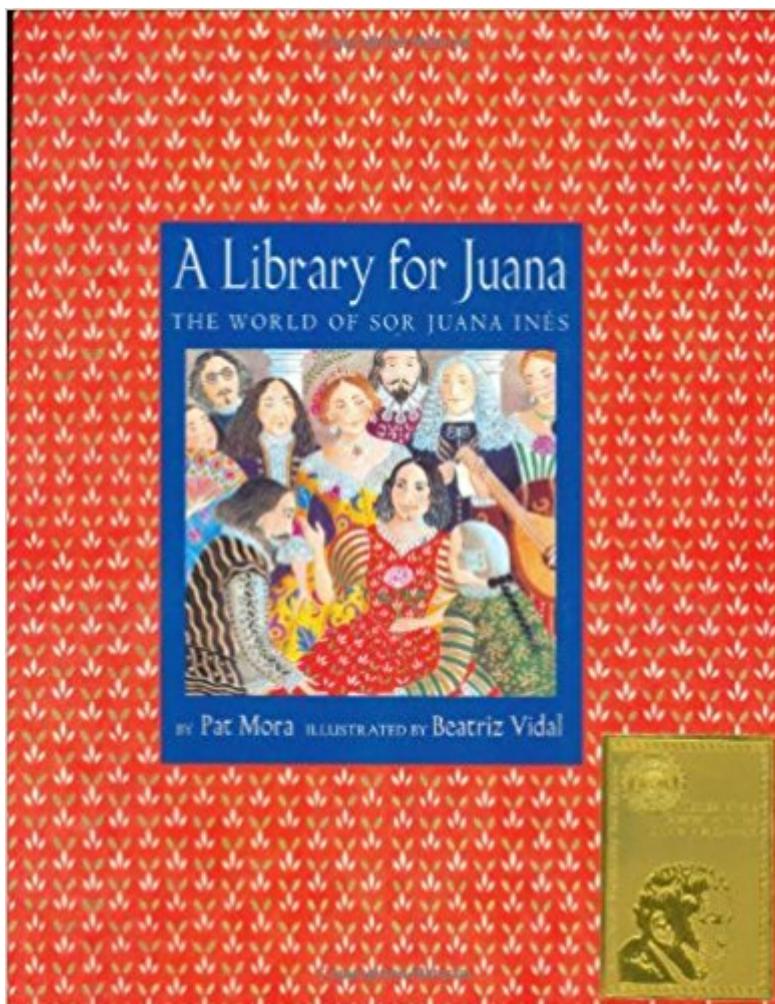


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# A Library For Juana: The World Of Sor Juana Ines



## **Synopsis**

I am quiet like a turtle." So promised Juana Inés, a little girl who loved words, on her first day of school. When she was three years old, Juana Inés followed her sister to school and peeked in the window, then begged the teacher to be allowed to stay so she could learn how to read. Soon she was making up stories, songs, and poems--she loved learning and she loved reading. And she couldn't wait to have her own collection of books! Eventually, Juana went on to become Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a nun, and she devoted her life to writing and learning and words. Though she died in 1695, Sor Juana Inés is still considered one of the most brilliant writers in Mexico's history: her poetry is recited by schoolchildren throughout Mexico and is studied at schools and universities around the world. Here is the story of her life, an incredible one full of knowledge, achievement, and inspiration, lovingly told by the renowned children's book author Pat Mora and gorgeously illustrated by Beatriz Vidal.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (November 12, 2002)

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Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Mora (Tomas and the Library Lady) concisely traces the rise of spirited Juana Ines from inquisitive youngster to a 17th-century Mexican scholar. Insatiably curious Juana, age three, follows her older sister to school and asks to join the class. Mora laces her narrative with lively anecdotes, as when the determined Juana shows up for dinner dressed as a boy after her mother announces that only

boys can attend university. At 10, the girl's mother sends her to live with family in Mexico City, and by age 15, Juana takes up residence in the viceroy's palace there, as a lady-in-waiting. Vidal's (Rainbow Crow) meticulously detailed, small-scale watercolor-and-gouache art details the bustling city as well as the finery of the palatial residence, where Juana immerses herself in the library and becomes an accomplished writer of poems, plays and songs. A standout spread shows Juana flanked by 40 scholars assembled by the viceroy at a giant round table; small insets depict the topics of their quiz (a harp, a caduceus, the planets in orbit around the sun). The narrative, unfortunately, appears in an uncommonly small font, but this story of persistence and pioneering will inspire youngsters. Even with the book's rather abrupt ending, the heroine's journey, coupled with Vidal's depiction of expressive faces and lovely renderings of flowers that spill from the borders of the pictures make for a memorable volume. Ages 5-8. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 2-4-Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz died in 1695 in a convent in Mexico. Despite the passage of more than 300 years, she is still considered one of Mexico's most brilliant scholars. An internationally known bibliophile and poet whose works are studied in university Spanish literature courses, she was a Renaissance woman in the most complete sense of the word. Mora's beautifully crafted text does credit to its subject, following her from birth to death. Sor Juana Ines comes across as intelligent, headstrong, humorous, and kind, and her retreat to the convent as a place of learning seems natural. The use of one of her riddle poems, both in Spanish and in a witty English translation, gives young readers a taste of this eminent poet. The text is perfectly complemented by Vidal's brilliant, detailed illustrations that have the look and exactitude of Renaissance miniatures. This is an exceptional introduction to an exceptional woman, and would enhance any collection. Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is so lovely. A positive book for any child to read, especially young Latina girls. The book tells how Juana Ines always loved learning and eventually became a renowned scholar. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful as well! I love to give this book as a birthday gift to the little ones in my life.

there wasn't any mention the this book was a withdrawal from a library, so the book had barcodes, spine labels, and stamps on the inside.

This book tells the story of Juana Ines de la Cruz, a Mexican author. She loved to learn from a very young age and this book does a wonderful job capturing that childlike want and need to learn everything. It started with a single question, "Why?" and grew from there. As a child Juana Ines de la Cruz never gave up wanting to learn more even when society and her family told her she wouldn't be able too. She went on to become a nun and a famous author who truly loved and enjoyed knowledge. The author was able to make a book about a real character entertaining and enjoyable for many ages. As an avid reader, I connected with her feeling of wanting to surround herself in the books and stories. Even a young student can relate to the pull of learning and asking questions about everything. The illustrations stretch out from the picture giving this almost fairy tale feeling even when it is about a real person. I felt the illustrations also captured Juana Ines de la Cruz's view of the world, every picture is vivid and bright and full of life.

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