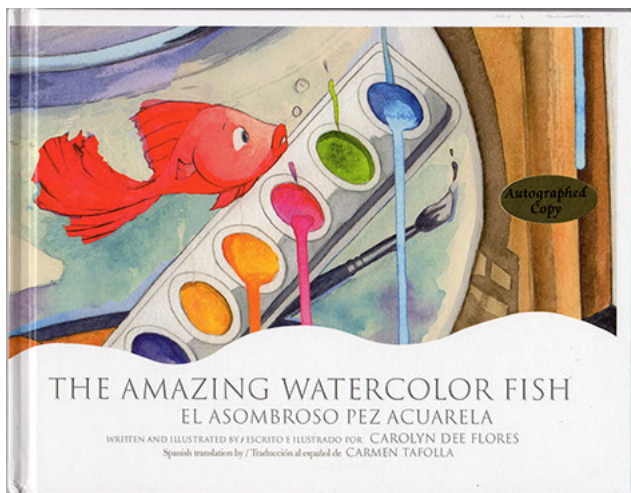


## Carolyn Dee Flores



CAROLYN DEE FLORES is the illustrator of several books, including *A Surprise for Teresita / Una sorpresa para Teresita* (Piñata Books, 2016); *Dale, dale, dale: Una fiesta de números / Hit It, Hit It, Hit It: A Fiesta of Numbers* (Piñata Books, 2014) and *Canta, Rana, canta / Sing, Froggie, Sing* (Piñata Books, 2013). A member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, she lives in San Antonio, Texas.



A lonely pet fish longs to know what exists in the world beyond her bowl. “I wish I could see over there / Behind the wall, / Behind the chair.” She imagines a giant tree, a wooly goat, and a purple sea.

She wonders if there could be someone out there who looks like her. So, she leans close to the glass and hears some fish-like cries! “Hello? Is someone there?” she hears. “Are you a bird? / Are you a bee? Or are you a fish with fins like me?” She realizes there’s another fish close by and his name is Mike!

When Mike asks what her world is like, the amazing watercolor fish has a great idea. “I’ll show Mike what I think could be!” Using watercolors, she paints a picture of a world with trees and swirling rainbows. Every day she paints more, “birds that swim, / ships with wings, / and books that do all sorts of things!” Then Mike uses his paint to illustrate more “than just the water and the door.”

In this fun bilingual picture book, with a wonderful rhyming Spanish translation by former Texas Poet Laureate Carmen Tafolla, two pet fish imagine a beautiful, mysterious world beyond their bowls. Children ages 4-8 will love following the progression of Carolyn Dee Flores’ gorgeous illustrations from black and white to full color as the fish become friends. Kids will be inspired to imagine—and maybe even paint or write about—a world beyond the one they know.

## ***The Amazing Watercolor Fish***

### **RRS connection to TEKS (PK-1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

- Watercolor
- Imagination
- Mindful listening
- Friendship
- Loyalty
- Ideas
- Painting, Paintbrush
- World, Earth
- Fantasy
- Books
- Learning

### **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?
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- Learn a little information about Carolyn Dee Flores.

### **While/ post reading engagement:**

- What do you see? A fish! Listen to learn what it hopes to be able to do.
- Be like the fish in the story and imagine the world outside your classroom, close your eyes, what do you see?
- What do you hear?
- Draw Mike and give him friends.
- Draw your world, use a lot of colors.
- Try paintbrush painting, and copy one of the paintings that the watercolor fish makes.
- What do you think happens at the end of the story?
- Add more details to the drawing of your world and tell your best friend all about it.
- Make a welcome banner for Carolyn! Decorate it with watercolor fish.
- Don't forget to think about questions you would like to ask Carolyn.

**Useful links:**

- Author's website: <http://www.carolynflores.com/>
- YouTube Channel: <http://www.carolynflores.com/youtubechannel.html>
- Interview: <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/arts-culture/2019/02/13/321591/arte-publico-press-author-interview-carolyn-dee-flores/>
- Publisher's website: <https://artepublicopress.com/product/the-amazing-watercolor-fish-el-asombroso-peza-acuarela/>