

## DUNCAN TONATIUH



Pura Belpré winner Duncan Tonatiuh is a Mexican American illustrator and author. His critically acclaimed works include *Undocumented*, *Danza!*, *Soldier for Equality*, *Separate Is Never Equal*, and many more. He graduated from Parsons The New School of Design. His style is inspired by ancient Mexican art, especially the Mixtec codex. Duncan splits his time between Mexico and the U.S.



Award-winning author Duncan Tonatiuh reimagines one of Mexico's cherished legends. Princess Izta had many wealthy suitors but dismissed them all. When a mere warrior, Popoca, promised to be true to her and stay always by her side, Izta fell in love. The emperor promised Popoca if he could defeat their enemy Jaguar Claw, then Popoca and Izta could wed. When Popoca was near to defeating Jaguar Claw, his opponent sent a messenger to Izta saying Popoca was dead. Izta fell into a deep sleep and, upon his return, even Popoca could not wake her. As promised Popoca stayed by her side. So, two volcanoes were formed: Iztaccíhuatl, who continues to sleep, and Popocatepetl, who spews ash and smoke, trying to wake his love.

## *The Princess and the Warrior*

### **RRS connection to TEKS (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</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 (also see glossary):**

- princess
- warrior
- emperor
- volcanoes: Popocatepetl & Iztaccihuatl
- Mexico City
- poetry (Flor y Canto)
- Quetzal
- Tonatiuh
- Citlalli
- cenzontle
- milpas
- tlatoani
- chimalli
- macuahuitl
- octli
- petlatl
- xóchitl

### **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? What did you learn about the illustrator? What does he/she do?
- Look at the artwork featured in the book. What do you notice? Look carefully at the features of characters and textures. What do you see? How does the book's artwork make you feel?
- Learn a little about the author, Duncan. What information about Duncan stands out?
- Ask your librarian to help you find more information about Mixtec codices. What would you like to learn more about before reading the book?

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

- Think about your favorite stories about princesses and warriors? Is this story different or the same?
- Make a character chart to help you understand the characters of the story.
- Have you heard this story before? Have you heard any stories about Mexican indigenous people?

- Ask your librarian to help you find more information about the volcanoes, and Mexican indigenous people. What would you like to learn more about?
- Listen to flor y canto music, and imagine how Izta sounds when she is teaching poetry. Do you like it?
- Ask your librarian to help you find information about: Mixtec artwork
- Read the author's note together. What did you learn?
- Do you have a favorite character? Make a drawing and tell us why she/he is your favorite.
- Copy Duncan's artwork to tell your own story.
- Don't forget to think about questions you would like to ask Duncan.
- Make a welcome banner for Duncan! Decorate it with drawings of your favorite page in the book.

**Useful links:**

- Author's website: <http://duncantonatiuh.com/>
- Videos: <http://duncantonatiuh.com/videoresources/>
- Publisher's website: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/authors/duncan-tonatiuh/>
- Interview: <https://www.politics-prose.com/book-notes/qa-duncan-tonatiuh>