

Raquel M. Ortiz



RAQUEL M. ORTIZ was born and raised in Lorain, Ohio. She is the author of two other bilingual picture books: *Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural / Sofi y el mágico mural musical* (Arte Público Press, 2015) and *Sofi Paints Her Dreams / Sofi pinta sus sueños* (Piñata Books, 2019). She has worked at The Brooklyn Museum, the Allen Memorial Art Museum and El Museo del Barrio. Currently, she creates educational material for the Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors Program at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York City.

Introducing children—and adults! —to the Afro-Latino tradition of *bomba* music and dancing, author and educator Raquel M. Ortiz shares another story for children ages 5-9 about her rich Puerto Rican heritage. With lively illustrations by Flor de Vita that aptly express Julia's frustration, fear and joy, this book will help children understand that practicing—whether dance steps, dribbling a ball or playing a musical instrument—yields results!



RRS connection to TEKS (PK-1st 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)

- Instruments: barriles/drum
- daydream
- astronaut
- bomba
- imitate
- bombazo!
- solo
- footwork
- barril primo
- tantantantán

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? Do you like Flor de Vita's artwork?
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- Learn a little about the author, Raquel. What information about her stands out?
- Ask your librarian to help you find more information about Puerto Rico, Afro-Puerto Rican music, and instruments. What would you like to learn more about before reading the book?

While/post reading engagement:

- Listen to bomba music. What do you think? Do you like it?
- Does your family play music at home? Show your friends your dance moves!
- Julia daydreams of becoming an astronaut. Do you daydream? Make a drawing of one of your daydreams.
- Julia feels nervous to dance. What does this mean? Explain what nervous feels like and tell her something to feel better.
- Look at Julia's dancing skirt! Can you think of other music that has a cool skirt like Julia's.
- Dance and yell, "BOMBAZO!"
- How does Julia feel when she dances? How do you feel when you dance?
- Did you like this book? Create your own story about music and dancing.
- Make a welcome banner for Raquel! Decorate it with a collage of photos of your favorite instruments or dancing.
- Don't forget to think about questions you would like to ask Raquel.

Useful links:

- Illustrator's website: <https://www.flordevitaz.com/>
- Book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UB2ATZaCEVA>
- Publisher's website: <https://artepublicopress.com/product/when-julia-danced-bomba-cuando-julia-bailaba-bomba/>
- Bomba: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiNCs3i6sBE>