

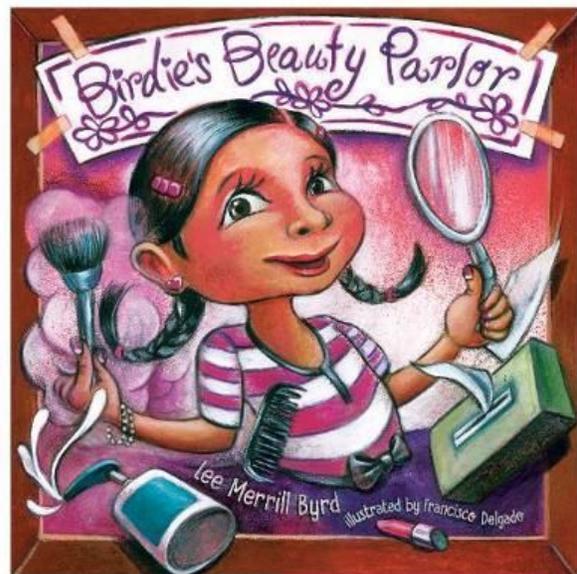


***Birdie's Beauty Parlor* by Lee Merrill Byrd  
Illustrated by Francisco Delgado**



Lee Merrill Byrd, novelist and publisher, was born and raised in New Jersey but has spent most of her life in the Southwest. In 1985, with her husband, poet Bobby Byrd, she founded Cinco Puntos Press, a publishing company named after their neighborhood in El Paso, Texas. Cinco Puntos—a publisher of nonfiction, fiction, poetry and children’s literature—is recognized for bringing the multicultural literatures of the American Southwest, the U.S./Mexico border region and Mexico to a national audience. Lee and Bobby have three children and five grandchildren. In October 2003, Cinco Puntos published Lee’s first picture book for children, *The Treasure on Gold Street, A Neighborhood Story* in Spanish and English. It received a Skipping Stones Honor Book Award, a Southwest Book Award, a Paterson Poetry Center Prize, and a Teddy Award from the Texas Writers League.

Everything you need to know to make your grandmother look like a queen! Birdie and Grandma are having a girls' day! They must have had fun because Grandma's all worn out now. Birdie has a solution: a makeover! It'll give Grandma a chance to relax. Birdie insists that Grandma lie down because this beauty parlor has a lot of moving parts, chinny-chin-chin hair removal, long stretches of blush, slashes of lipstick, and eyeshadow. Earrings, scarves, the works! Birdie knows best: she owns this beauty parlor! *Birdie's Beauty Parlor* is the second collaboration between Lee Byrd and Francisco Delgado. Lee draws inspiration from her grandchildren for the story, and Francisco's illustrations are based on his children.



**RRS connection to TEKS: 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:**

- Intergenerational love
- Grandmother
- Granddaughter
- Latina
- Self care
- Bilingualism
- Make up: powder / eyeshadow / blush / lipstick
- Beauty parlor
- Talent

**Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do? Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the book?
- What do you think the book will be about? Who does this book remind you of?
- What does an illustrator do?
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- This book is in English and Spanish. Does your family speak English and Spanish?
- Read the author and illustrator's biographies together. What did you learn about them?
- Ask your librarian for their suggestions on other latinx children's books!

**While/post reading engagement:**

- How do you think grandma is feeling at the beginning of the story? How do you know?
- What does Birdie do to take care of her grandma?
- In your life, who takes care of you when you're tired?
- What kinds of things make you feel better when you are tired?
- What do you notice Birdie is talented at? What talents do you have? Think about a time when you used your talents to help others. Share with the class!
- How do you think grandma feels after being beautified by Birdie?
- What words would you use to describe Birdie? What do you have in common with her?
- What language do you use to communicate with your grandparents?
- Draw a picture of your family! Don't forget to add Abuela :)
- Practice questions that you would like to ask Lee when she visits your school.

**Useful links:**

- Author/publisher website: <https://cincopuntos.com/>
- Cinco Puntos blog: <https://cincopuntos.com/blog/>
- Interview w/ Cynthia Leitich Smith:  
<https://cynthialeitichsmith.com/2006/11/author-publisher-interview-lee-merri/>
- Cinco Puntos YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cincopuntos/videos>
- Illustrator's website: <https://franciscodelgado.weebly.com/>