



Anna Meriano



Anna Meriano grew up in Houston, Texas, with an older brother and a younger brother but (tragically) no sisters. She graduated from Rice University with a degree in English and earned her MFA in Creative Writing with an emphasis in writing for children from the New School in New York. She has taught creative writing and high school English and works as a writing tutor. Anna likes reading, knitting, playing full-contact quidditch, and translating English song lyrics into Spanish and vice-versa. Her favorite baked goods are the kind that don't fly away before you eat them.

Anna Meriano's unforgettable family of brujas returns for one more serving of amor, azúcar, and magia, in this breakout series that's been called "charming and delectably sweet." (Zoraida Córdova, award-winning author of the Brooklyn Brujas series) It's spring break in Rose Hill, Texas, but Leo Logroño has a lot of work to do if she's going to become a full-fledged bruja like the rest of her family. She still hasn't discovered the true nature of her magical abilities, and that isn't the only bit of trouble in her life: Her family's baking heirlooms have begun to go missing, and a new bakery called Honeybees has opened across town, threatening to run Amor y Azúcar right out of business. What's more, everyone around her seems to have secrets, and none of them want to tell Leo what's going on. But the biggest secret of all comes when Leo is paid a very surprising visit—by her long-lost Abuelo Logroño. Abuelo promises answers to her most pressing questions and tells Leo he can teach her about her power, about what it takes to survive in a world where threats lurk in the shadows. But can she trust him?



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:

- Middle-grade fiction
- Critical thinking skills
- Setting, characters, plot, conflict, themes, point of view
- Mexican bakery, family business
- Bilingual and bicultural
- Dual language/ code switching
- Legends
- Family recipe book
- Brujería
- Ancestry/ Birth order/ Family/ Sisterhood
- Lineage
- Friendship
- Legacy

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?
- Do you love to draw? Look at the book cover and make a prediction about the story that you are about to read. Think about the setting, characters, plot, conflict, themes, and point of view.
- What literary genre is this?
- What do you know about fiction, middle grade books? Talk to your librarian and ask her to show you more examples of this genre.
- Think about the author's use of Spanish in her storytelling. What do you think of this way of writing a story? How does this writing style make you feel?
- You can also explore Magic Realism.
- Go to: [Anna Meriano](#) and find out more about the author of this book.

While/ post reading engagement:

Chapter 1- 4

- Start a timeline to keep track of the important events in this story or a character chart to show all of the people you meet while reading *Love Sugar Magic*.
- Don't miss her description of first-born, second-born, etc special powers and learn about how each sister is different. Make a drawing of your family and add the special powers that you each have. What is "el Otro Lado?"
- Try your graphic novel skills and turn these first four chapters into a comic book.
- In Chapter 2, the story mentions, "critical thinking skills." Give an example of these skills.
- Have you tried some of the Mexican pastries that are mentioned in this story? Which ones? Describe your favorite *pan dulce* with a friend.
- Where does this story take place? Have you ever visited this city? What do you remember? You can also use the Internet to find information about this city in Texas.
- Did you learn any new home remedies? Make a list of the home remedies shared by this family.
- You can also make a list of new words in Spanish that you learned.
- Stop! Check for understanding! Make an anchor chart to describe the story so far and include the setting, characters, plot, conflict, themes, and point of view.

Chapter 5-8

- Practice your response skills and give a short summary of the story before you continue reading.
- Draw the aunts and uncles in this story and then make a drawing of your favorite aunts and uncles. Share this drawing with your friends.
- Do you know anything about magic spells? Play pretend and create your own spell. Write the spell and don't forget to list its impact on people.
- How about legends? Do you know any *leyendas* in Spanish? Why do you think that the author added Mexican American legends into this story?
- Pretend to be Leonora and describe how she feels in this story. Pretend to be Leonora's best friend and share what you would do to help her out.
- Compare Leo's parents and create a venn diagram to show how they are alike and different.
- What is a bruja cocinera? Make a drawing to show the qualities of this character quality.
- What are the conflicts presented in these chapters? What would you do to solve them?
- You now have a lot of information about the Logroño family and their bakery. Make a drawing of the bakery. Imagine and design the setting of the story and describe this to a sibling or friend.
- What other cities in Texas are mentioned in this story?
- Oh no! Mal de ojo! Share what you know about *mal de ojo*. Do you believe in this? Why or why not?

Chapter 9-12

- Stop! Check for understanding! Practice your response skills and share a summary of the story before you start reading a new chapter.
- What is happening in Leo's community? Has this happened in your community? What changes are Leo's parents preparing for?
- Make a plan to help them resolve problems at the end of Chapter 8.
- Update your timeline with events that happened in this section of the book. Make sure to include the events that significantly impacted the characters or plot.
- Read aloud: end of page 104 and describe your thoughts about the statement from Abuelo Logroño.
- Help Leo with her frustration. Give her a strategy to help her cope with her body's reaction to stress.
- What is the meaning of your last name? Does it carry a special power?
- Library rules! Why does Leo get in trouble at the library? Help her remember what we should not do at a library and why.
- Oh no! I missed it! Who is the Queen of Catan? Make a drawing to describe her.
- Drink manzanilla! Why does Leo have to drink manzanilla?
- Are you confused with the details? Talk to a friend and review this section of the story.
- Make an anchor chart of all of the emotions that Leo is feeling.
- Rose Hill Chronicle: Write a story for the newspaper that explains what is happening to Leo's family business.

Chapter 13-16

- Stop! Check for understanding! Practice your response skills and give a summary of the story so far. You can also update your timeline of events and make predictions about what will happen next.
- Read Chapter 13 and get some new tips for your pretend spell. Revise or change your pretend spell to include these new tips.
- Make a drawing of these chapters to show the progress of the main conflict of this story.
- Make an equity recipe! What does this family need to thrive again in their community?
- What spell ingredient would you love to have? How about invisibility powder? What pretend things would you do with it?
- What new information do you learn in Chapter 15?
- Describe Mrs. O'Rourke. You can make a drawing or share what you know about her aloud with a friend.
- What happens at the end of this section?

Chapter 17-22

- Stop! Check for understanding! Add new events to your timeline and see where the story goes next.
- Don't forget that you can also practice your parts of speech while reading and find: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection.
- Practice your skills one more time! Find figurative language used throughout the book (similes, metaphors, personification, etc)

- Make an anchor chart for Abuelo and tell his story. You can also describe his personality and emotions.
- Did your family run a family business? Share your story with the class.
- What is an heirloom? Do you have one? What happens to the heirlooms stored at the bakery?
- Are you an actor at heart? Create a mini-script to act out the last events of this story.
- Oh no! Duendes! What are these and what do they do in this story?
- Read Leo's apology to Caroline. Have you ever apologized to anyone. Share one thing that really helps when giving an apology.
- The characters share ingredients that cancel negative energy. Can you think of any other ways to cancel negative energy? What can we do to feel better?
- Read the final chapters of this book and share your thoughts about how the story ends. Why do you think the author chose to tell this story?

Post-reading and wrap-up:

- Discuss the take-home message and form your own opinion. With your teacher's help, look for reviews of this book. For example, Publisher's Weekly and Kirkus Reviews. Do you agree or disagree with the reviews? Write, draw, or share your thoughts.
- Provide recommendations for future readers: Should other 3rd-5th graders read this book? What do you think?
- Make a welcome sign for Anna Meriano! Decorate it with photos and drawings of your favorite *pan dulce* or witches.
- Read Leonora's Lucky Recipe Book #3 and make your own recipe book.
- Prepare three questions you would like to ask Anna Meriano during her virtual campus visit.

Useful links:

- Author's website: <https://www.annameriano.com/>
- Barnes & Noble Interview: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/kids/baking-brujas-interview-anna-meriano-love-sugar-magic-dash-trouble/>
- Interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GA9N8IJ9cY>
- Austin Public Library Interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ3M7taibE>
- KirkusReview: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/anna-meriano/dash-trouble/>