



Illustrator -Raúl The Third



Raúl the Third is the Pura Belpré Honor-winning illustrator of the *Lowriders* series. He is currently working on the expanded world of his *Vamos!* series, and illustrating the fourth volume of the *Lowriders* series, written by Cathy Camper. He grew up in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juárez, México, and now lives in Boston, Massachusetts with colorist and collaborator Elaine Bay and their son, Raúl the Fourth.



Lowriders: Blast from the Past

When new friends Lupe, Flapjack, and Elirio are each bullied by Las Matamoscas, they know they're going to like one another. When they find out they all love lowrider cars, they know they'll be friends for life. But the bullies won't leave the Lowriders alone—and they don't let any girls or babies into car clubs. Can these three determined outcasts prove they deserve to be in the car show? Humor, Spanish words, and lowrider culture come together in this heartwarming graphic novel of three friends navigating the bumpy terrain of friendship, bullying, and standing up for what you believe in. ¡Vámonos!

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

- Illustration
- Graphic novel
- Comic book strip
- Scene/ Sequence
- Storyboard
- Pop-culture references
- Bilingual/ bicultural
- Borderlands/ La Frontera
- Street vendor
- Lowriders
- Muralism
- Friendship vs Bullying
- Community Cultural Wealth

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? What do the illustrations tell us about the story?
- This story is written in English and Spanish. Use your bilingual superpowers to write a few sentences about yourself using both languages.
- What can we say about this illustrator by just looking at the book cover?
- Open the book, what do you see? Find five details that give you clues about the story.
- Go to the illustrator's website and learn about Raul's style of illustration.
- Do you have initial questions for Raúl The Third?
- Make a drawing showing all of your community wealth. You can walk your neighborhood and make notes about all of the assets you see. Use this wheel to help you: [Wheel](#)

While/ post reading engagement:

- Make a character chart to explore all of the characters you meet while reading this story. Include their names, a description, what they did in the story, something they said, and your favorite thing about the character.

- Create an anchor chart outlining the elements of this story: Setting, characters, plot, conflict, theme, and point of view.
- Look at the group's (Lupe, Flapjack, Elirio) community and find 10 assets- things that help his community thrive.
- Read the names of characters closely and write down the funniest one you find.
- For comic book lovers: Create your own comic strip or select a scene from this book to recreate or change.
- Did you like this story? Call a friend or share this story aloud.
- Don't forget to look for information about El Paso, Texas.
- What do you think? Do you think other students would enjoy this book? Write a book review!
- Get ready for your illustrator visit by making a drawing of this book to share with Raúl. You can also think about a question that you can ask Raúl The Third on Reading Rock Stars Day!

Useful links:

- Illustrator website: <https://www.raulthethird.com/>
- What are storyboards?
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/what-are-storyboards/>
- Interview with the illustratrator:
<https://latinosinkidlit.com/2015/02/09/q-a-with-illustrator-raul-the-third/>
- Listen to Raúl The Third and Kwame Alexander:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmDbdm-ug_A
- Meet the author: <https://cathycamper.com/bio/>
- Are you interested in learning about lowriders? See <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/manylenses/lowriders>
- See this book review:
<https://latinosinkidlit.com/2019/03/28/book-review-lowriders-blast-from-the-past-written-by-cathy-camper-illustrated-by-raul-the-third/>
- More books with Latinx characters:
<https://www.parents.com/fun/entertainment/books/kids-books-that-feature-latino-characters/>