

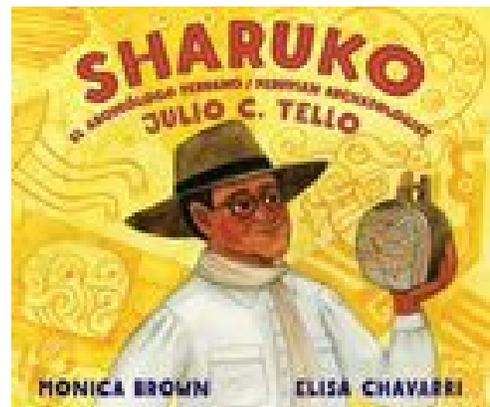
***Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano / Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello* by Monica Brown**



Monica Brown, Ph.D. is the author of many award-winning books for children, including *Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People* (Henry Holt), winner of the *Américas Award for Children’s Literature* and an *Orbis Pictus Honor for Outstanding Nonfiction*, and *Waiting for the Biblioburro* (Random House), a *Christopher Award* winner.

Monica’s books are inspired by her PeruvianAmerican heritage and desire to share Latino/a stories with children. “I write from a place of deep passion, joy, and commitment to producing the highest possible quality of literature for children. In my biographies, the lives of my subjects are so interesting and transformational that I am simply giving them voice for a young audience. I don’t think it is ever too early to introduce children to the concepts of magical realism, social justice, and dreaming big!”

Growing up in the late 1800s, Julio Tello, an Indigenous boy, spent time exploring the caves and burial grounds in the foothills of the Peruvian Andes. Nothing scared Julio, not even the ancient human skulls he found. His bravery earned him the boyhood nickname *Sharuko*, which means “brave” in Quechua, one of the languages of the Native people of Peru. At the age of twelve, Julio moved to Lima to continue his education. While in medical school, he discovered an article about the skulls he had found as a boy. The skulls had long ago been sent to Lima to be studied by scientists. The article renewed Julio’s interest in his ancestry, and he decided to devote his medical skills to the study of Peru’s Indigenous history. Over his lifetime, Julio Tello made many revolutionary discoveries at archaeological sites around Peru, and he worked to preserve the historical treasures he excavated. He showed that Peru’s Indigenous cultures had been established thousands of years ago, disproving the popular belief that Peruvian culture had been introduced more recently from other lands. He fostered pride in his country’s Indigenous ancestry, making him a hero to all Peruvians. Because of the brave man once known as *Sharuko*, people around the world today know of Peru’s long history and its living cultural legacy.



**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 (Writing)*
- *Composition II (Genres)*
- *Inquiry and research*

**Relevant Vocabulary:**

- Bilingual
- Sharuko
- Archaeology / Archaeologist / Archaeological sites
- Lima, Peru
- Indigenous Chauvin culture / Native Peruvians
- The Paracas
- Chavin de Huantar
- Irrigation
- Harvard University
- Spanish conquest
- Textiles
- Cemetery
- Quechua
- Inca Empire
- Brave
- Honored
- Curious
- Andes mountains
- Discrimination
- Ancestry
- Museum of Anthropology
- Ancient history
- Intergenerational knowledge
- Community Cultural Wealth

**Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do? What does an illustrator do?
- Think about the title of this book and its cover illustration. How does it make you feel? What does it make you think about?
- Look for information about the author. What did you learn about the kind of things she loves to do and what inspires her?
- Create illustrations of what pops into your mind when you think about the word “archaeology”. Then, look up the definition to confirm your understanding.
- Find Lima, Peru on a map and do some research on the cultures of their indigenous people (Incas).
- Why do you think this book is written in both English and Spanish?

### While/post reading engagement:

- What traits in Julio do you admire? Why?
- Have a class discussion on why it's important to understand the history of indigenous Peruvians in order to understand the kind of person Julio is. What aspects of your own family/cultural history are important to your identity/identities?
- Why do you think Julio was fascinated by the items he found in the burial grounds?
- How were Peru's Indigenous language, culture, and customs kept alive even after the Spanish tried to destroy them? What does this tell us about these people?
- Based on the details in the book so far, make a prediction about the type of career you think Julio would be great at!
- Why do you think Julio wanted to pursue a higher education?
- How can you be a lifelong learner just like Julio?
- What does Julio do to give back to his community? Create a list of the special skills in your own classroom and brainstorm how they can be used to help your own community!
- Use a graphic organizer to keep track of all the amazing things you learn about the indigenous people of Peru.
- Why were Julio's discoveries so important to the field of archaeology and, specifically, the Peruvians?
- Julio's wish came true when he was made director of the museum displaying his new discoveries! What dreams do you have for yourself?
- Reflect on your own lineage and ancestry. Do research on the ancient civilizations of your own cultures. Go around the classroom and share your findings!
- What traditions or customs has your family passed down generation to generation?
- Create a timeline outlining the key events in this true story.
- Create an anchor chart outlining the elements of this story: Setting, characters, plot, conflict, theme, and point of view.
- Get ready for your author visit by making a drawing of this book to share with Monica Brown. You can also think about a question that you can ask her.

### Useful links:

- Author's website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/about/index.php>
- Author printable brochure: <http://www.monicabrown.net/files/MonicaBrownBio.pdf>
- Virtual book tour:  
<https://forum.teachingbooks.net/2020/04/monica-brown-on-sharuko-el-arqueologo-peruano-julio-c-tello-peruvian-archaeologist-julio-c-tello/>
- Kirkus Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/monica-brown/sharuko/>
- Publisher's book guide: [http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Sharuko\\_TeachersGuide.pdf](http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Sharuko_TeachersGuide.pdf)
- Illustrator's website: <http://www.elisachavarri.com/>