

HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Neal Porter Books

HC: 9780823447541 · Ebook: 9780823455270

Little Rebels

by **Yuyi Morales**

★ “An engaging, emotionally-secure-feeling telling that offers a powerful message.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

ABOUT THE BOOK

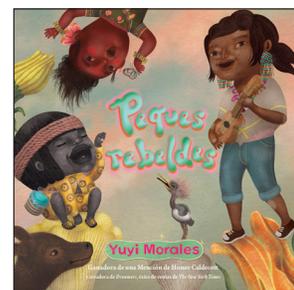
A powerful new picture book from Caldecott Honoree Yuyi Morales, creator of *Dreamers* and *Bright Star*.

Little rebels have a way of finding each other. When these three youngsters come together while playing outside, they feel the pull—these are their people. Little rebels ask questions. They use language to shape the world, and when no words are right, they make up new ones. They imagine, trust their intuition, and aren't ashamed to change their minds.

Playing together in good times leads to working together through trouble. When the local lagoon dries up and a friend is trapped in the dry bed, the little rebels call on ancestors to show them what to do. Nobody gets left behind.

Caldecott Honoree and six-time Pura Belpré Medalist Yuyi Morales, creator of *Dreamers*, *Viva Frida*, and *Bright Star*, draws on Mexican folklore in this much-anticipated new offering. *Little Rebels* is as bold and spirited as the young trailblazers it chronicles.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the illustrations. Take a hint from the animals, plants, and people and discuss where the book takes place. How do the colors used reflect the culture of the little rebels? Where do you think Yuyi Morales found inspiration for the book?
- Define *rebel*. How do the little rebels describe themselves? Explain what they mean when they say, “We speak words that shape the world we want to live in” (p. 9). Why do they sometimes invent new words? What are some of their word inventions? How might word inventions change a story? Select one illustration in the book and invent a word that describes it.
- The little rebels call upon those who rebelled before them. Who are these people? Where are they now? When in the story do the little rebels know it’s time to ask for help? What advice do they get from older rebels?
- Perspective in art is a technique to give a sense of distance, making things seem far away. Which illustrations seem farthest away? Discuss the perspectives on pp. 22–25. How do the perspectives make the situation seem grave and dangerous? Perspective and color may also affect the way you feel. Debate whether these illustrations make you feel anxious and scared for Kek. What happens when Kek is freed?
- In what way is this story about caring and trust? What does Morales want us to learn from the little rebels? Brainstorm ways to be rebellious about protecting the environment and caring for those who are special to us.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATOR



Photo credit: Gustavo Barrios

Yuyi Morales was born in Xalapa, Mexico, where she currently resides. She is a Caldecott Honoree and a repeated winner of the prestigious Pura Belpré Award for Illustration, among other honors. Her titles include *Dreamers* (a *New York Times* bestseller), *Niño Wrestles the World*, *Viva Frida*, and *Bright Star*. She lived for many years in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she still maintains close connections.