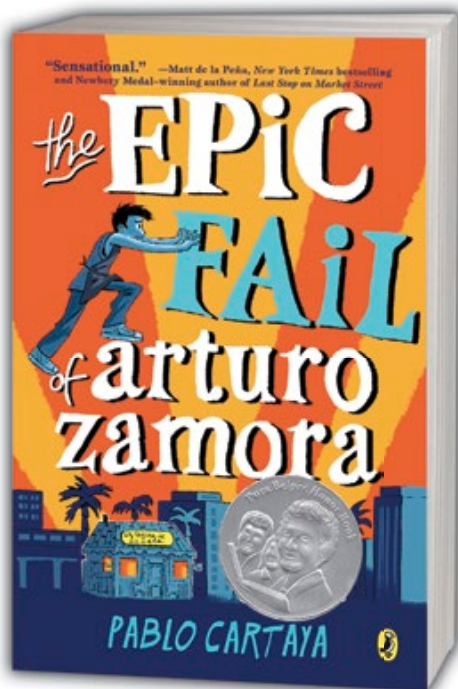


## A 2018 PURA BELPRÉ AUTHOR HONOR BOOK

**Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl.  
Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old  
Arturo Zamora do it all, or is he in for a  
BIG, EPIC FAIL?**



For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela's restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo's apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn't notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.

★ **"Irresistibly exquisite."**

—KIRKUS REVIEWS

★ **"Engrossing."**

—BOOKLIST

★ **"Vibrant."**

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This novel begins with Arturo's "note to self." What is the effect of the book beginning here?
2. Why is food so important to Arturo and his family?
3. Look at Chapter 4, "ice scream: a dialogue." This chapter is very different than the rest of the novel. Why did the author choose to make this almost like a play with dialogue and stage directions?
4. Who was Jose Martí? Why is he so important for this book?
5. Carmen's protest sign reads "FAMILY IS COMMUNITY—COMMUNITY IS FAMILY." What does this mean?
6. After Arturo is upset because he feels like he failed, he takes a moment to directly address the reader of his book. "Dear reader, I told you not to be fooled by high expectations." Why do you think he talks directly to the reader? Did you feel like he was talking to you? Explain.
7. What are Arturo's epic fails? How do they impact him, and those around him, throughout the story?
8. Is Wilfrido Pipo evil? Why or why not?
9. Why does Arturo decide to use a poem to address the neighborhood?
10. Would you make any of the recipes at the end of the book? Why do you think the author included the recipes?

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Arturo, Carmen, and Arturo's family protest Pipo's proposed plan. While their involvement is on a large scale, think of something that's happening in your own community and create a protest sign to advocate for yourself, your class, your school, or whoever! On the back of the sign, explain the history of the situation and propose an idea for how to fix it. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA LITERACY.WHST.6-8.2)

Arturo's abuelo leaves him letters. Write a letter to your own future relatives—tell about a time when you made a difference in the world and give your future relative wisdom about how they could be a changemaker. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3)

# About **PABLO CARTAYA**



Pablo Cartaya is an award-winning author, speaker, actor, and educator. In 2018, he received a Pura Belpré Author Honor for his middle grade novel, *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*. His second novel, *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*, is available now. His third novel, *Each Tiny Spark*, publishes in 2019. Learn more about Pablo at [pablocartaya.com](http://pablocartaya.com) and follow him on Twitter @phcartaya.

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