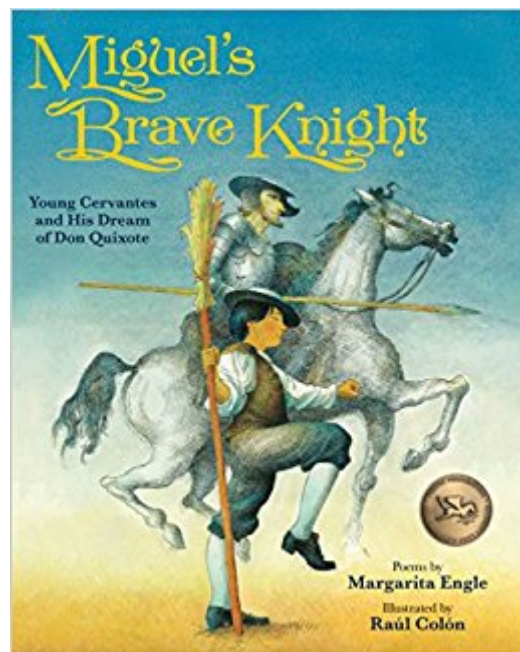




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# Miguel's Brave Knight: Young Cervantes And His Dream Of Don Quixote



## Synopsis

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra finds refuge from his difficult childhood by imagining the adventures of a brave but clumsy knight. This fictionalized first-person biography in verse of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra follows the early years of the child who grows up to pen *Don Quixote*, the first modern novel. The son of a gambling, vagabond barber-surgeon, Miguel looks to his own imagination for an escape from his family's troubles and finds comfort in his colorful daydreams. At a time when access to books is limited and imaginative books are considered evil, Miguel is inspired by storytellers and wandering actors who perform during festivals. He longs to tell stories of his own. When Miguel is nineteen, four of his poems are published, launching the career of one of the greatest writers in the Spanish language. Award-winning author Margarita Engle's distinctive picture book depiction of the childhood of the father of the modern novel, told in a series of free verse poems, is enhanced by Rafael Colón's stunning illustrations. Backmatter includes a note from both the author and illustrator as well as additional information on Cervantes and his novel *Don Quixote*.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920 (What's this?)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Engle's poems are lyrical yet direct—Colón's pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations

(inspired by the prints of Gustav Doré) accompany every poem bringing Engle's words into sharp focus. An intriguing, lightly fictionalized introduction to an iconic author, this will encourage readers to learn more about the first modern novel." --Booklist, STARRED REVIEW "Beautiful and engaging, this book will inspire readers to find out more." --Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW "Colón's pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations are paired perfectly with the text and the subject. This expressive picture book biography presents a solid argument for why Cervantes should be revered as an important figure in the Western canon. A gorgeous and well-crafted work for all nonfiction collections." --School Library Journal, STARRED REVIEW

Margarita Engle is the Cuban-American author of many verse books, including a Newbery Honor winner, *The Surrender Tree*; a PEN USA Award winner, *The Lightning Dreamer*; and a verse memoir, *Enchanted Air*, winner of many awards, including an inaugural Walter Dean Myers Award Honor and the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award. Margarita's books have also received three Pura Belpré Awards and four Américas Awards, as well as a Jane Addams Award, International Reading Association Award, Claudia Lewis Poetry Award, and the Charlotte Zolotow Award. Margarita grew up in Los Angeles, but developed a deep attachment to her mother's homeland during summers with her extended family in Cuba. She was trained as a botanist and agronomist before becoming a full-time poet and novelist.

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