



Author Visit



Karla

ARENAS VALENTI

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Hi! I'm excited to meet with you and talk about my middle grade magical realist adventure, *Lola*. In this presentation we will cover:

- Mexican history, mythology, and lore
- Magical realism and fantasy as storytelling genres
- The illustrator and her artwork
- My origin story
- The process of writing (from idea to publication)
- The plot of LOLA
- The philosophical idea underpinning this story

We will also do a great art activity that connects to the story's plot and Mexican culture.

Below are some tips to help you make this event as engaging, exciting, and memorable as possible!



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How to prepare for a Lola author visit:

- Plan to read the book in advance of the visit. This will help the participants connect more deeply with the story and the topics we discuss.
- If you have finished reading the book, spend some time reflecting on it with the Reader's Guide I prepared and included at the end of the book.
- My debut middle grade novel (*Loteria*) is also a magical realist adventure exploring a profound idea (free will vs fate). Have your students read that book and compare the stories, the themes, and the overall styles.
- Students can research me (the author) or Islenia Mil (the illustrator) and create Hispanic Storyteller Biographies.

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How to prepare for a Lola author visit:

- Our art activity will involve the concept of the Tree of Life (depicted below in Mexican artisanal pottery). A cross-disciplinary way to prepare for the visit is to have participants create the “skeleton” of this tree using paper or art supplies (e.g., cutting construction branches and taping them to a wall) on which they can later place the artwork they will be creating during my visit.



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*How to prepare for a Lola
author visit:*

- Check out some of my other books for adventurous readers!

