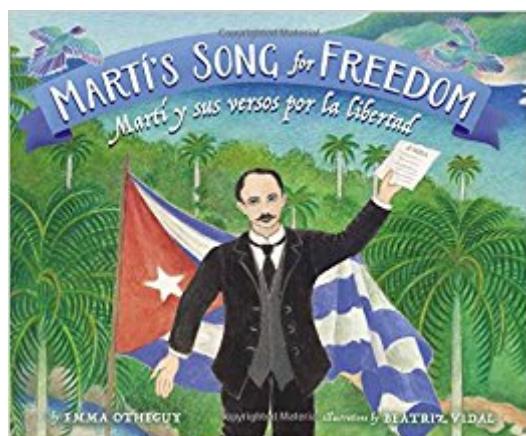


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MartÃ¡s Song For Freedom / MartÃ— Y Sus Versos Por La Libertad (English And Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

A bilingual biography of José Martí, who dedicated his life to the promotion of liberty, the abolition of slavery, political independence for Cuba, and intellectual freedom. Written in verse with excerpts from Martí's seminal work, *Versos sencillos*.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Childrens Book Pr; Bilingual edition (July 17, 2017)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Weaving in work from poet and Cuban freedom fighter José Martí, Otheguy presents a sensitive portrayal of the revolutionary. Told in stanzas paired alongside Domínguez's Spanish translation, Martí's life story faces detailed, evocative full-page paintings, some painful (Martí witnessed the horrors of slavery), others celebratory. If the text sometimes feels workmanlike, it's only because the included bits of Martí's poetry are so strong and searing. In bringing an important life back into the conversation during divided political times, this book spotlights a steadfast hero and brilliant writer still worth admiring today. ----Kirkus Reviews, starred reviewCuban poet and political activist José Martí witnessed an injustice at a young age and gave his life trying to right that wrong. He opposed slavery in Cuba and knew that the only way to end it would be to free Cuba from Spain's rule. Cuban American author Otheguy illuminates the life of a young man endeavoring to make a difference through affecting bilingual verses, which make Cuba's complicated history with slavery and colonialism accessible to young readers. By incorporating excerpts of Martí's writing into the narration, Otheguy introduces a new generation of readers to an important champion of human

rights. Vidal's gouache artwork captures the beauty and the injustice of which Martí wrote, showcasing his country's vibrant colors, as in the pinks and oranges of the sunset, and illustrating the harsh treatment of enslaved Africans, who are shown performing backbreaking labor in sugarcane fields. Dominguez's excellent Spanish translation makes Martí's story available to a wide audience, and the text offers significant additional information via an afterword on Cuba's history, a selected bibliography, and excerpts from Martí's *Versos Sencillos*. Otheguy and Vidal tell a timely story that will inspire many to fight for equality and sing songs for freedom. ----Booklist, starred review Otheguy debuts with a bilingual story, written in gentle and measured verse, about activist José Martí, detailing his efforts to free Cuba from Spanish rule and its people from slavery by disseminating pamphlets and writing for newspapers. After being jailed and exiled to New York, Martí continued his campaign to liberate the Cuban people while finding solace in the Catskills: the grass grew wild/ and seemed to whisper/ that Cuba still needed him. Vidal (*Little Bek Longtail Learns to Sleep*) uses a subtle folk art style in her detailed gouache illustrations, creating people who resemble terra-cotta figurines. Excerpts from Martí's *Versos sencillos* thoughtfully underscore this moving account of his crusade for justice. ----Publishers Weekly, starred review

EMMA OTHEGUY is a children's book author and a historian of Spain and colonial Latin America. She is a member of the Bank Street Writers Lab, and her short story "Fairies in Town" was awarded Magazine Merit Honors by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Otheguy lives with her husband in New York City. This is her picture book debut. You can find her online at emmaotheguy.com

A beautifully written book on the life and poetry of Cuban poet and political activist José Martí, with a side-by-side Spanish translation. Emma Otheguy's text is both informative and inspiring. Beatriz Vidal's illustrations are gorgeous. A wonderful introduction to Martí for readers of all ages.

Wonderful bilingual book on Jose Martí's work for Cuba's independence. I had never heard of Martí before but I am so glad to have come across and read this book. A strong book that weaves debut picture book author Emma Otheguy's story with Martí's own words into a tale for the ages and for all ages. Gorgeous illustrations by Beatriz Vidal.

This bilingual story in verse pays tribute to an inspiring writer and freedom fighter from Cuba. Otheguy's language is lovely (He chased the river/as it swelled with the rains/and rushed on

to the saltwater sea) and seamlessly includes excerpts from Martí's poem. An afterward provides additional biographical information. A wonderful book!

Beautifully written, informational, and fun picture book I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy! My kids have asked to read this book over and over!

Lovely story of an often looked-over liberator/poet. Beautiful illustrations and wonderful story translated in both Spanish and English. Highly recommend for diverse classrooms.

A fantastic biography for both children and adults! I loved the mix of Emma's prose and José's own poetry. Would be a great book to use in a classroom!

This picture book in both Spanish and English verse tells the story of José Martí. Martí spent his entire life working to end slavery in Cuba after witnessing the brutality first hand. At the time, Spain ruled Cuba and a war of independence started in 1868. Martí wrote against the Spanish government and was jailed and put to hard labor. At 17-years-old he was sent away from Cuba. He continued to fight for Cuba's independence and settled in New York. He would travel into the Catskill Mountains to see the nature that he missed from Cuba. Martí eventually returned to Cuba and helped fight in the battles against the Spanish, dying on the battlefield before freedom was realized. His words live on: it was his words and songs that helped drive the Cubans to fight for freedom and to continue fighting. The verse contains excerpts from Martí's works, allowing readers to read his words directly. The verse from the author and from Martí work beautifully together, flowing into one river of words that tell the story of Cuban freedom. The afterward and author's notes add information to the verse, giving more dates and information on the war for freedom in Cuba and on Martí's life. This picture book biography takes a complex subject and makes it accessible for young readers, demonstrating how a young-person's passion can ignite a nation. The illustrations move from Cuba to New York to the Catskills, capturing scenes of daily life, lush greenery, and battles. There is a sense of energy to all of the illustrations, that matches that of the verse as it speaks to the drive that Martí had to speak out for Cuba's independence. A great picture book biography that adroitly pairs English and Spanish on the page. Appropriate for ages 7-9.

Includes **Afterword**, **Author's Note**, and a **Selected**

Bibliography. José Martí (1853-1895) was born when Spain ruled Cuba with an iron fist. Slave labor on sugar plantations allowed the rich to become richer, oppressing natives of all races. Determined to free his people José Martí advocated for freedom from Spain, which led to imprisonment and deportation. Despite being away from the island he loved, José Martí continued his fight to abolish slavery from his new home in New York through poetry and speeches. Ultimately he gave his life for his country, remembered for the words he left behind which deeply illustrated his love for freedom and justice for all. Otheguy's well-researched bilingual picture book tells the story of Cuba's greatest poet and patriot, as Vidal's simply drawn, yet colorful paintings, illustrate his struggle in a clear, straightforward manner. It will appeal to older elementary readers, especially those in grades 3-6, and may well be a contender for the upcoming Pura Belpré award. If it wins or places, remember that you read it here first. Recommended for ages 8-11. I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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