



Américas Award Books on Peru

Mirror in the Kingdom of the Sun, Jane Kurtz. Illustrated by David Frampton. A young Inca girl succeeds where her brothers and others have failed on a quest to cure the king's son. The strength of this female protagonist comes across in the fine woodcut illustrations as well. (K-3) **1996 Commended List**

Martín de Porres, the Rose in the Desert, Gary D. Schmidt. Illustrated by David Diaz. Martin de Porres, the Rose in the Desert tells the moving story of the first Black Catholic Saint of the Americas. The illegitimate son of a former slave and a Spanish conqueror, Martin grew up in the poorest barrio of 17th century Lima, Peru where 'hunger lived in their home and illness was their companion.' The Rose in the Desert tells how the child was taken in as a servant by Dominican Friars, where he became known for his miraculous ability to heal both animals and humans. The poor came to Martin to be healed, and soon Spanish royals began to request his services but 'learned to wait for him to tend the poorest among the barrios first.' In spite of his humble spirit and service to the community, the mulatto child was frowned upon by the friars and addressed as 'son of a slave' and 'mongrel.' Finally, some thirteen years after his arrival at the monastery, he was permitted to take his vows as a Dominican tertiary. Among the Dominican brothers, he performed miracles and heal the sick, until his death in 1639. In San Martin, young readers learn about universal concepts such as charity, poverty, justice and community. Moments of tribulation, compassion and triumph are all present in this simple yet lyrical text. A full palette of emotion is expressed through mixed media illustrations which provide a unique blend of shapes and vibrant watercolors. This story of the patron saint of interracial harmony and social causes leaves the reader with a feeling of inspiration and hope for humanity. (Grades K-4) **2013 Honorable Mention**

Maria Had A Little Llama/ María Tenía Una Llamita. Angela Domínguez. Everyone knows about Mary and her little lamb. But do you know María? In this bilingual version of the traditional rhyme, María has a llama. The book is set in the Peruvian Andes, and the beautiful and playful illustrations rendered in gouache and ink, show the llama following María everywhere she goes. She even follows María to school one day, which is against the rules. (Grades Pre-K to 1) **2014 Commended Title**