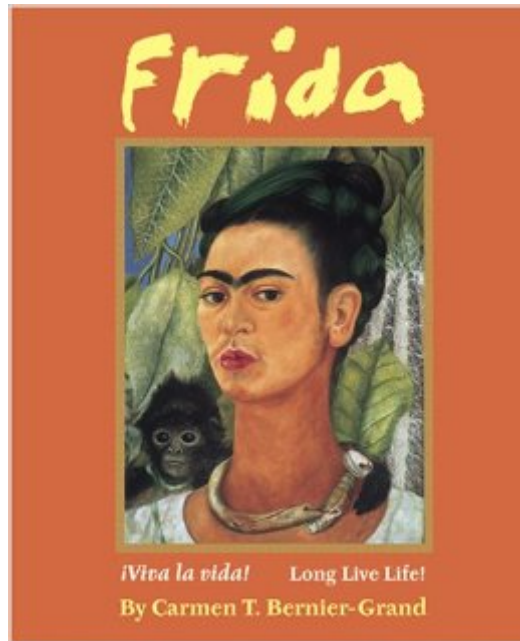


The book was found

Frida: Viva La Vida! Long Live Life!



Synopsis

"Wearing the white huipil with the lavender tassel, hiding my amputated leg in red-leather boots, I wheel the wheelchair to the Blue House studio that Diego so lovingly built for me. I dip the brush in blood-red paint and, embracing life with all its light, I print on a watermelon cut open "like I am" "¡Viva la vida!" a hymn to nature and life." Frida Kahlo, a native of Mexico, is described here in biographical poems accompanied by her own artwork. Both text and images reveal the anguish and joy of her two marriages to muralist Diego Rivera, her life-long suffering from a crippling bus accident, and her thirst for life, even as she tasted death. Her favorite motto was: ¡Viva la vida! (Long live life!) Back matter includes excerpts from Frida's diary and letters, a prose biography, a chronology of the artist's life, a glossary of Spanish words, sources, and notes.

Book Information

Hardcover: 64 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #615,515 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Art > History #19 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Art > Biographies #88 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Customer Reviews

This is another of Bernier-Grand's free verse poetry biographies of famous Latino people presented in picture book format marketed to children; she has published books on Diego Rivera, Cesar Chavez, and Pablo Picasso to name a few. Frida is marketed by the publisher to grade 8 and up. I appreciated that this book is illustrated with original artwork because Kahlo's work is so unique and telling about it describe it in words while not showing it would not work. I really felt the book was helped by the inclusion of Frida's artwork versus her book Diego which was illustrated by David Diaz, and left me curious to see the actual work (which I satisfied by using the Internet). The book spans her entire life and the main point is emotional and physical suffering, her polio and accident and many subsequent surgeries and medical complications Her miscarriages and the medical

procedures and emotional pain is also covered. Very briefly mentioned are her political leanings, stated to be "more socialist than communist" and that she was a member of the communist party. In mentioning that Diego asked for a divorce after his affair, and hers, she leaves that hot topic at that. At the back of the book is a biographical sketch with a bit more information, some of it more controversial (such as she had her affairs not just with men but also women). There is also a timeline and a glossary of Spanish terms. This style of a biography for middle schoolers in poem format makes for quick reading, it takes about an hour to read. Although this is not as thorough as the biographies published for kids in the 1960s and prior one would argue that kids are not reading entire long chapter book biographies these days. This book is approachable and easy to read.

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