

READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND 2024

Programming Guide & Resources Directory

A Guide for Libraries and Classrooms

Solito

A Memoir

"I have waited decades for
a memoir like *Solito*."
—Sandra Cisneros



JAVIER ZAMORA

Rhode Island Center for the Book



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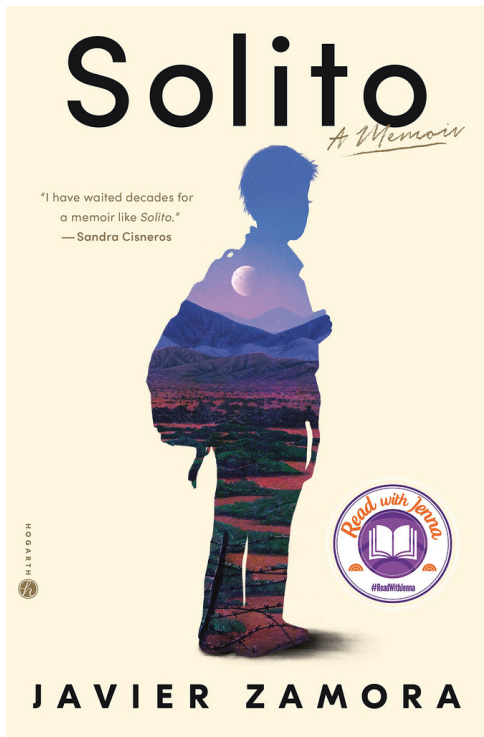
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Solito: A Memoir

BY JAVIER ZAMORA



Reading Across Rhode Island 2024

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Dear Rhode Island Readers,

Welcome to our 2024 Reading Across Rhode Island program. We are thrilled to offer Javier Zamora's memoir *Solito* as this year's selection. It is a book that will pull you into this 9-year-old's journey from his home in El Salvador to his eventual border crossing into the US. You may find yourself holding your breath as he navigates perilous circumstances and then heartened by the compassion of the unexpected family and friends he finds along the way. Through a child's eyes and vivid imagination you will feel the confusion around having to leave the only home he has known, the pain of hunger and exhaustion, and the enduring hope that he will eventually reunite with his parents. Javier's story humanizes our understanding of the mass migrations taking place around our world and into our country, and we hope this year's selection will open up conversations about how we as Rhode Islanders can support our local immigrant and refugee populations.

Whether this is your first time enjoying a RARI selection or your twenty-first, we are so happy for you to be part of our statewide reading program. Our team of volunteers has created a wide-ranging program for you to enrich your reading. We hope you will join us for one of our many events outlined in our Programming Guide, and we encourage you to join in conversations about the book with your family, students, book club and colleagues. That is after all, what RARI is all about: bringing all generations of Rhode Islanders together through a shared reading experience. We are excited for the rich discussions that will take place in high school classrooms, in senior centers and at our dining room tables. And we are excited to partner with local organizations offering relocation services to our immigrant and refugee populations in Rhode Island. We are particularly honored to partner with the Refugee Dream Center this year and to welcome Executive Director Teddi Jallow as our 2024 Honorary Chair. We know you will be inspired by her story and her organization's focus on adult education, health promotion, youth programs and case management.

On behalf of our RARI Education Committee, we are thankful for your participation this year. We hope you will join us for our in-person and virtual events, especially for Javier Zamora's visit to the Ocean State in April! If you are a book club leader, librarian or classroom teacher, we hope you will reach out to kate@ribook.org to request free book sets of *Solito*, and encourage friends, family and colleagues to join us for this year's state-wide reading program too.

Yours in Reading,
Maureen Nagle
RARI Education Chair

PROGRAMMING GUIDE



Office of Library and Information Services Solito Information Session (virtual)

Tuesday, January 23, 11:00-12:00

Learn more about the title and themes, what the Center for the Book has planned for this year's program, and resources to help you go beyond a book discussion. This session will be recorded and will be made available for those who cannot attend live. [Register Here](#).

RARI 2024 Kick Off (in-person)

Saturday, February 3, 2:00-4:00

We are returning to an in-person kick-off event for our 2024 RARI selection. Readers are invited to the Rhode Island State House Library for an introduction to this year's text and related programming. Join Omar Bah, the Refugee Dream Center's Founder and Director of Programs, to learn more about Admission is free, but you must [Register Here](#).

RARI Evening for Educators Live Webinar (virtual)

For educators interested in learning more about Solito, our webinar hosted by Rhode Island PBS offers resources and teaching strategies to engage your students. Free classroom book sets to all attendees, and virtual roundtable discussions in the spring for educators to discuss the book and continue to share resources. Professional Development Certificates provided. Registration will be available in early February.

Civic Engagement & Arriving in Rhode Island (in-person)

Rhode Island State House, March 25

Join us for a panel discussion style series hosted by the Department of State in the State Library and moderated by Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore, featuring three panelists who use their time and talent to create civic engagement space and opportunities for fellow Rhode Islanders. Civic Engagement & Arriving in Rhode Island will include individuals who create space and resources for a more welcoming Rhode Island. Registration coming soon at ribook.org.

Living Literature

Living Literature will be offering a 45 minute, readers' theatre style presentation of Solito performed by three actors. Optional additional programming: This year Living Literature is collaborating with the students of Manton Avenue Project (MAP) as they create and produce mini plays in response to the Solito text, and Living Literature's performance. Email Tanyan Martin to book a performance: tanyarmartin3@gmail.com

Javier Zamora, Author Event (in-person)

Thursday, April 11, 6:30pm

Join us for this in-person author event with Javier Zamora to be held in Newport at Salve Regina University. Registration and tickets will be available on the [Rhode Island Center for the Book web site](#) in March.



Read to Lead

Share a book and a good conversation with your co-workers today! Read to Lead encourages Rhode Island businesses and other organizations that may not typically be involved with literature programs to start up a workplace book club. If your organization already has an established book club group, we encourage you to join us too! Email kate@ribook.org to get started.

Book Club “Book in a Bag” Reading Kits

Pre-made book kits with 10 copies of the book, the resource guide, and book discussion questions are available for libraries to add to their circulating collections. These kits are publicly available for community groups and private book groups to borrow and hold a discussion with friends, family, or constituents. Contact your local library today about borrowing a Book Club in a Bag for your discussion group.

Companion Reads Virtual Author Visits

Keep an eye on our website and follow The Center for the Book on social media for more details to come about upcoming author events for our Companion Reads.

RARI/ SOLITO workshop with Tina Cane

Solito is a memoir of migration, survival, and family. Its themes are universal, but resonate especially with young people from other parts of the world who have made the United States their new home. Writing poems can be a powerful way for all people to explore and share their stories—personal and otherwise. In poetry workshops with Tina Cane, students of all ages have an opportunity to reflect on their individual experiences, while learning about form and some of the literary tools poets use to shape stories into poetry. To schedule a workshop for your school, library or senior center, email kate@ribook.org

Welcome Blanket at the Museum of Work and Culture

We encourage classroom teachers, book club leaders and community organizers to consider participating in this upcoming exhibit at the Museum of Work and Culture. To learn more about how you can create a blanket with your reading group and donate it to Dorcas International to welcome new refugees to Rhode Island, please visit <https://www.rihs.org/welcome-blanket-project/>.

Oral History Workshop with Marta. V. Martinez

In the workshop you will learn what is the difference between story collecting & oral history. Attendees will come to this session with their own curiosities about what is oral history and how they can plan or work on an oral history project with and among communities of color or other communities that have not yet been well represented in the public history of Rhode Island. This is a platform where we will discuss and reflect on how our own stories can be told, and is not a step-by-step hands-on oral history session. Registration is required



Author/Novel Resources

- [Javier Zamora's Author Website](#)
- [A selection of Zamora's poetry](#)
- [Rhode Island Current News Article about Solito as the 2024 RARI selection](#)
- [Penguin-Random House Teacher's Guide](#)

A Selection of Rhode Island Organizations Supporting Immigrants and Refugees

- [AMOR](#)
- [Beautiful Day](#)
- [Conexion Latina Newport](#)
- [Diocese of Providence Immigration and Refugee Services](#)
- [Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island](#)
- [Fuerza](#)
- [Higher Ground International](#)
- [Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island](#)
- [KIND](#)
- [Latino Policy Institute](#)
- [Olneyville Neighborhood Association](#)
- [Progreso Latino](#)
- [PrYSM](#)
- [Refugee Dream Center and Interview with founder Omar Bah](#)
- [Rhode Island Latino Arts](#)
- [Sojourner House](#)



PBS Learning Media Resources

[PBS Learning Media Resources](#)

Lessons and activities for elementary, middle and high school students

Teacher Resources

[Colorín Colorado: Recommended Resources to Support Students and Families Who Are Refugees](#)

[Immigrant Learning Center: Educator Resource Hub](#)

[ImmSchools: Educator's Hub](#)

[Informed Immigrant: For Educators: Supporting Undocumented Students & Their Families](#)

[Informed Immigrant: How to Support Undocumented Students' Mental Health: Dealing with Trauma and Anxiety](#)

[Learning for Justice: Immigration](#)

[Re-Imagining Migration's Educator Toolkit](#)

[PBS Wakelet](#)

A collection of articles visually organized for readers and students to explore immigration and refugee stories and issues.

Teacher Resources In Rhode Island and Massachusetts:

[Refugee Resources: State of Rhode Island, Department of Human Services](#)

[Multilingual Learners \(MLLs\) / English Learners \(ELs\): State of Rhode Island, Department of Education](#)

[Unafraid Educators, Boston Teachers Union: Resources for Educators:](#)

Select Chapters Reading & Teaching Guides

Here is a link to the Penguin-Random House Teacher's Guide for *Solito*:

https://images.penguinrandomhouse.com/promo_image/9780593498064_9504.pdf

Additionally, to help your students grow their background knowledge of the waves of immigration from El Salvador to the US, consider using these lessons from Teaching for Change (free download):

<https://www.teachingcentralamerica.org/immigration-from-el-salvador>

For classroom teachers unable to teach the full memoir, we offer reading guides for select chapters. Each reading guide includes a chapter summary, vocabulary, pre-reading activity, reading questions and after-reading activity questions. We also offer a [Glossary of Terms](#) that recur throughout the novel to preview with students prior to reading any of the chapters.



For a visual reference, we have created a map of Javier's journey based on the best information available. This gives the reader a sense of his route, though some locations are estimated and not exact.

[Map of Javier's Journey](#)

[Teacher Guide to Accompany Map](#)

Chapter Reading Guides

- [Chapter 1](#)
- [Chapter 3](#)
- [Chapter 7](#)
- [Chapter 8](#)
- [Chapter 9](#)

FURTHER READING

A selection of books for all ages about immigrants and refugees. Book title links lead to the Ocean States Library Catalog where you can find the book at your local library. As well as a [visual reference guide](#) for selected further reading.

Picture Books

[*The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story* by Aya Khalil, 2020 \(Egypt\)](#)
[*Areli is a Dreamer* by Areli Morales, 2021, Rhode Island Latino Book Award Nominee 2023 \(Mexico\)](#)
[*Islandborn* by Junot Diaz, 2018 \(South America & Latin America\)](#)
[*Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* by Edwidge Danticat \(2015\) \(Haiti\)](#)
[*My Two Border Towns* by David Bowles, 2021. \(Latin America\)](#)
[*Something Happened to My Dad: A Story about Immigration and Family Separation* by Ann Hazzard, 2022 \(Mexico & Latin America\)](#)
[*To the Other Side* by Erika Meza, 2023 \(South America & Latin America\)](#)
[*Unsettled* by Reem Faruqi, 2021; Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominee 2023 \(Pakistan\)](#)
[*Vamos Let's Cross the Bridge* by Raul the Third, 2021 \(South America & Latin America\)](#)
[*Watch Me: A Story of Immigration and Inspiration* by Doyin Richards, 2021 \(Africa\)](#)
[*Where Butterflies Fill the Sky; A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home* by Zahra Marwan, 2022 \(Kuwait/Asia/Middle East\)](#)
[*Wherever I Go* by Mary Wagley Copp & Munir D. Mohammed \(local author\), 2019 \(Africa\)](#)

Middle Grade

[*Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanh Lai, 2011 \(Asia/Historic Vietman War - Sequel *When Clouds Touch Us* published in 2023\)](#)
[*Land of the Cranes* by Aida Salazar, 2020, Rhode Island Latino Book Award Nominee 2022 \(South America & Latin America\)](#)
[*On These Magic Shores* by Yamile Saied Mendez, 2020, Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominee 2022 \(South America & Latin America\)](#)
[*Unsettled* by Reem Faruqi, 2021, Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominee 2023](#)
[*Parachute Kids* by Betty Tang, 2023 \(Asia\)](#)
[*A Place Called America: A Story of the Land and People* by Jennifer Thermes, 2023 \(Non-Fiction History\)](#)

Middle School

- Coming to America through the Angel Island Immigration Station: A History Seeking Adventure* by Ailynn Collins, 2024 (Asia)
- Efren Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros, 2020, Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Nominee 2022 (South America & Latin America)
- Everything Sad is Untrue : (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri, 2021 (Iran)
- Illegal* by Eoin Colfer, 2019 Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Nominee 2020 (Africa)
- Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga, 2019; Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Nominee 2021 (Syria)
- Refugee* by Alan Gratz, 2017 (Jewish Germany)
- Santiago's Road Home* by Alexandra Diaz, 2021, Rhode Island Latino Book Award Nominee 2022 (Mexico)
- When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson, 2020; Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Nominee 2022 (Somalia)

Young Adult

- Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi, 2018 (Iran)
- American Street* by Ibi Aanu Zobo, 2017 (Haiti)
- I am Not Alone* by Francisco X Stork, 2023 (South America & Latin America)
- I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez, 2017 (Mexico)
- Indivisible* by Daniel Aleman, 2021 (South America & Latin America)
- Sanctuary* by Paola Mendoza, 2020 (South America & Latin America)
- The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon, 2016 (Jamaica)
- We Are Not From Here* by Jenny Torres Sanchez, 2020, Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee 2022 (South America & Latin America)
- Ask Me No Questions* by Marina Budhos, 2006 (South America & Latin America)
- We Are Here To Stay* by Susan Kuklin, Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee 2021 (Non-Fiction)

Adult

Beautiful Country: A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood by Qian Julie Wang, 2021 (Asia)

Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue, 2016 (Cameroon)

Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario, 2006 (Honduras)

How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents by Julia Alvarez, 1991 (Dominican Republic)

A Hope More Powerful than the Sea: One Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss, and Survival by Melissa Flemming, 2017 (Syria)

The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border by Stephen Briseño, 2022 (Mexico)

50 Pies, 50 States: An Immigrant's Love Letter to the United States Through Pie by Stacey Mei Yan Fong, 2023 (Cookbook)

The Next Great Migration: The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move by Sonia Shah, 2021, (Non-Fiction)

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- School Librarians of Rhode Island



RARI EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



2024 RARI Education Committee Members

Renee Gilbert: K-12 Education Specialist, Rhode Island PBS

Danielle Grise: English Teacher, Portsmouth High School

Danika Hallam: English Teacher, East Providence High School

Maura Keating: Library Media Specialist, Classical High School

Colleen Kenyon: Director of Education Services, Rhode Island PBS

Maureen Nagle: English Teacher, Moses Brown School

Suzanne Pickford: English Teacher, Barrington High School

Amanda Scott: Assistant Executive Director, National Education Association Rhode Island

Sarah Trudeau: Coordinator of Education Services, Rhode Island PBS