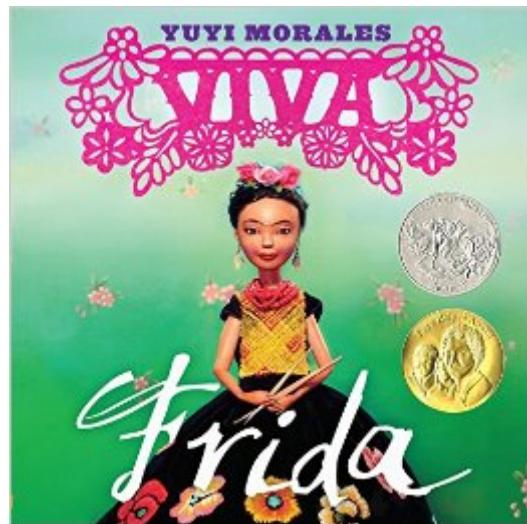


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# Viva Frida (Morales, Yuyi)



## **Synopsis**

A 2015 Caldecott Honor BookA 2015 Pura BelprÃ© (Illustrator) AwardFrida Kahlo, one of the world's most famous and unusual artists is revered around the world. Her life was filled with laughter, love, and tragedy, all of which influenced what she painted on her canvases. Distinguished author/illustrator Yuyi Morales illuminates Frida's life and work in this elegant and fascinating book.A Neal Porter Book

## **Book Information**

Series: Morales, Yuyi

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press; Bilingual edition (September 2, 2014)

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Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #33,998 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #11 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #22 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

I am a teacher and bought the book to read to my 2nd and 3rd grade students. Then I planned that we would draw and make self-portraits. The reviews were so strong I thought it would be a fabulous book. When I received it I was dismayed. The text is almost non-existent. It consists of poetic phrases such as, "I dream" and "I understand." Most of the pages have one word upon it like "search." The worst book to read to children, we will finish it in two seconds. The book tells nothing about the history of her life, her back pain, her ancestry, life in Mexico, her imagery and artworks, nothing. .. She was a strong woman who spent a large portion of her life painting in bed. There are no reproductions or artistic remakes of her art in the book either. However, the book is beautiful and does have very pretty photographs of dolls and illustrations. As an artist, I found it to be a rather stereotyped and generic view of the soulful inner being of an artist. I don't think it represents the

soul and inner being of Frida Kahlo herself. She was much more complex and beautiful than the story (words) in this book imply. The illustrations and photographs suggest a much more complex and interesting story, but one that is not uncovered fully in the book. It would have been more compelling to have the beginning part of the book have her in pain in bed painting and then have the book switch to her soul and magical imaginings. To show that she was a survivor who had a gorgeous inner life. It was not at all what I was looking for. If one already knows about Frida and her art, this is fine. Or if you seek a purely poetic book with no background information this is the book for you.

What a beautiful and colorful cover for a picture book. I was really hoping that we would have a remarkable book about the Artist Frida here. But, I hate to be the party pooper here. This was not a good book, I am sad to say. As an adult, it took reading through it 2 or 3 times before totally understanding what the author was trying to say. And, I read and review countless picturebooks! That is not good when an adult has a hard time making sense of a book. My 6 kids had an even harder time. I had all of my kids read this without any input from dear old dad. They all said the same thing: "Huh?" "That book doesn't make any sense." Again, when your target market, your core audience doesn't get the book and doesn't like it, we've got a problem. Art: 2 out of 5 Stars, Writing: 1 out of 5 Stars, Ending: 2 out of 5 Stars, Overall: 2 out of 5 Stars.

This is a bilingual introduction for young children to the artist Frida, an artist from Mexico who was born in 1907. This book's biographical piece at the end tells us that Frida created 143 paintings with 55 self-portraits. Frida suffered from polio and was in an automobile accident which required multiple surgeries. She died at the young age of 47. This book doesn't cover the tragic events of Frida's life but evokes her colorful and vibrant art through multi-media illustrations including a doll-like puppet as Frida. There is not much plot but short sentences on each page. If you are doing a unit on Frida or Mexico, you might want to include this book. The illustrations are the best part of the book.

Yuyi Morales has created a love letter to Frida Kahlo. On this blog maintained by Julie Danielson <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=3559> Yuyi has generously detailed how she created this book. Also, it's bilingual.

I was super excited to see a book about Frida Kahlo in my preschooler's book order. Unfortunately,

the book was not a hit with my daughter who will spend hours a day with books. The pictures are vibrant and interesting but there is so little text, the book does not interest her or hold her attention. She really doesn't "get it". I had hoped the book would be more about Kahlo's life and showcase her art, but not so much.

There is no way I can accurately describe the beauty of this picture book. I couldn't come close to doing it justice. It is incredible. Possibly the most gorgeous picture book I have seen in many years. An award sticker is definitely forthcoming on its dustjacket. Buy it and enjoy!

Viva Frida is Yuyi Morales' love letter to Frida Kahlo. The depth of Morales' admiration for the groundbreaking Mexican surrealist painter comes through in every expertly prepared page spread. Morales incorporates acrylic painting, stop-motion puppetry and other three-dimensional elements into a series of dioramas, photographed by her collaborator, Tim O'Meara. The result is eye-popping. Each spread bursts with jewel-like colors and captivating details, including Mexican textiles, bits of jewelry and animal fur. Clay figures representing Frida, her husband, Diego, and their animal friends are central to each diorama. Readers familiar with Kahlo's work will recognize iconic elements in the injured fawn, the monkey, Frida's famous eyebrows, her hand-shaped earrings and much more. A simple and brief poetic text in Spanish and English complements each page's visual design. Viva Frida is a stunner that understandably caught the attention of important list-makers.

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