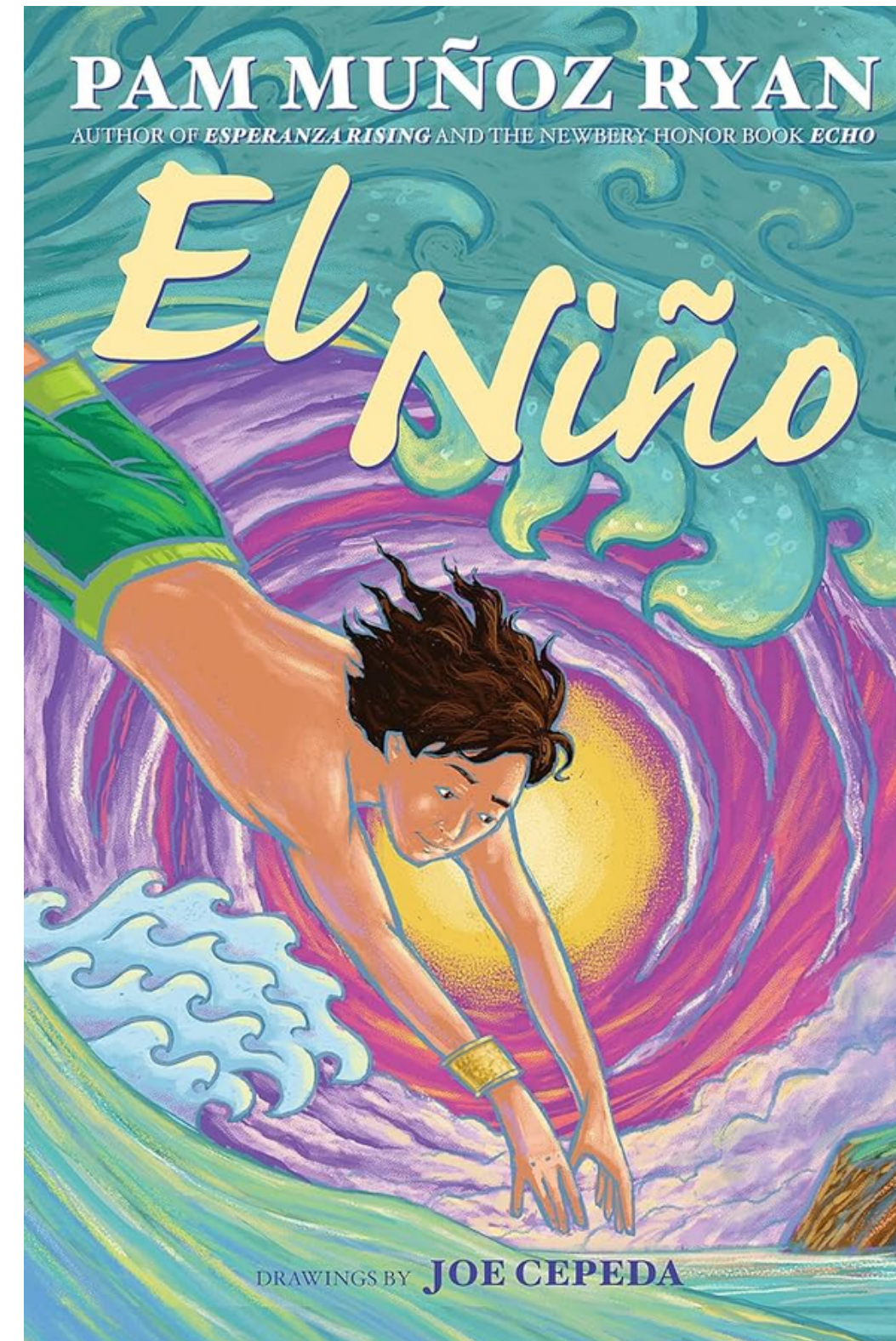


EL NIÑO

Written by Pam Muñoz Ryan
and illustrated by Joe Cepeda

Draw and Drop

Developed by Brooklyn Byerly, Lexi Freedman,
and Lilly Brunnick for CU Boulder's Children's
Book Festival 2025, Open Education Resource,
Creative Commons, Available at
colorado.edu/event/bookfest



Grade and Colorado Academic Standard

Grade Level: 4th grade

Content Area: Reading, Writing, and Communicating

Standard: Reading for All Purposes

Grade Level Expectations: Apply strategies to comprehend and interpret literary texts.

Evidence Outcome: Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the differences between first- and third-person narrations.

Colorado Academic Standard information retrieved from

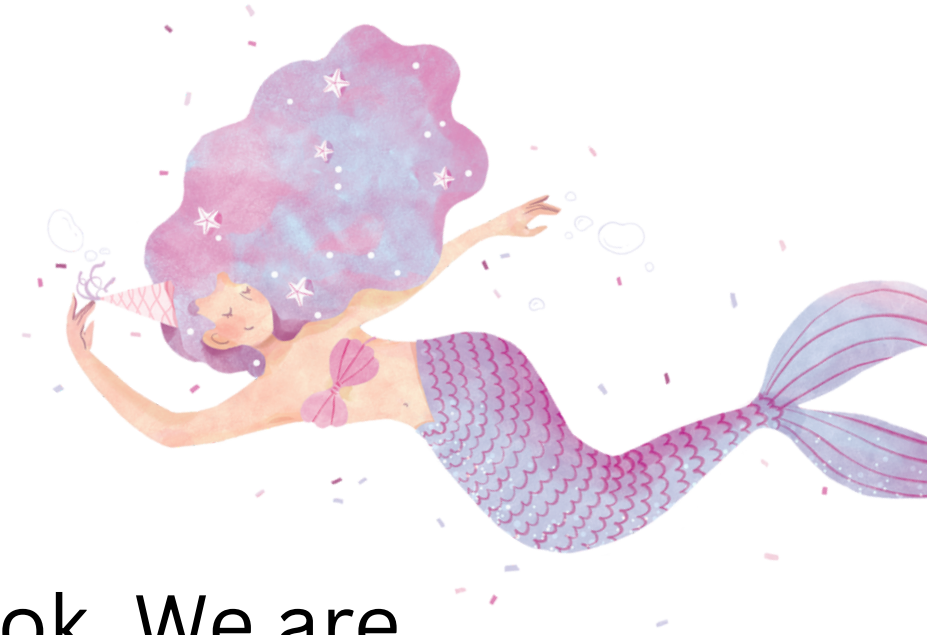
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards>

View the full standards at

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>

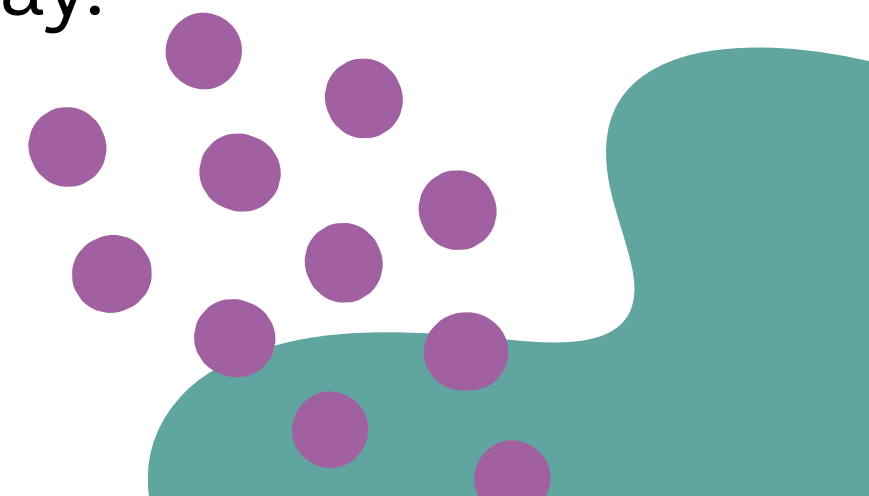
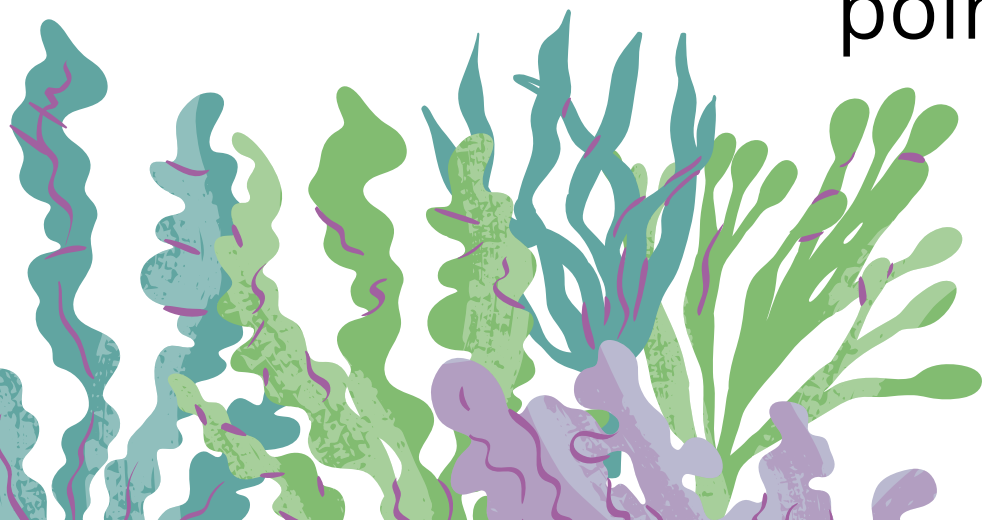


Activity Overview: Draw and Drop



This is an activity for after we have finished reading the book. We are talking about 1st and 3rd person points of view, but this activity is to focus on 3rd person and see how it is used in many different ways. It will be done in groups of two students.

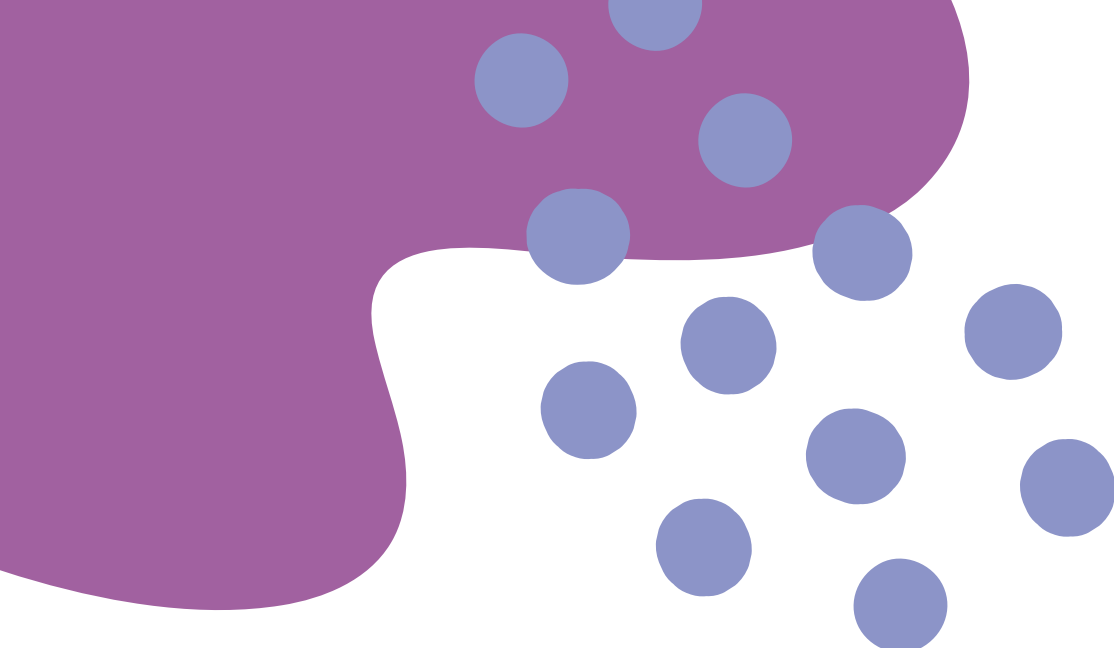
The idea of this activity is to learn the difference between the everyday life in the book and the mythology that is read. Since the book has two different parts -- the part about Kai during his everyday life and the part about Califia in her mythological world – we will learn to separate the points of view and see how each is used in their own way.



Activity Overview Continued:

- First person POV: the main character talking about themselves. (Examples: I, me, myself)
- Third person POV: the narrator/outside point of view talking about the characters. (Examples: he, she, they)
- This book is mainly in 3rd person.

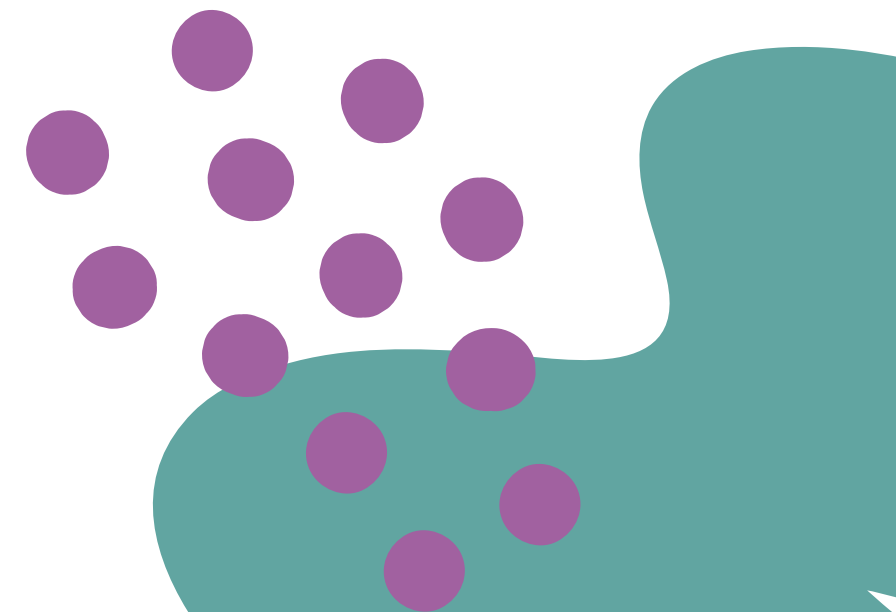
Use these pictures and quotes to figure out which is the main book and which is the mythological book. Compare and contrast the quotes and say why you think each quote represents a different part of the book.



Materials

The materials for this activity are:

- The book (*El Niño* - optional)
- A partner
- 2 piles of cards
 - One pile with quotes from the main story
 - One pile with quotes from the mythological story



Resources

was pounding on a door. He pulled a pillow over his head and groaned, needing to sleep. To be rested for tomorrow.

Yet the chimes were insistent. He tossed the pillow to the floor, stumbled across the room, and opened the slider to the balcony. The wind plastered his pajama pants against his legs. He groped for the hanger above the dangling tubes and slipped it from the eye screw. He laid the chimes on the deck and did the same to two others.

Another loud thud startled him. He stepped to the edge of the balcony and peered into the yard.

Light spilled from the downstairs windows, and the gate to the landing above the beach stairs swung back and forth in the wind, slamming into the latch post. His parents never went to bed without turning out the lights, and they always secured the gate to the steep stairs. Had they gone out in this weather?

He checked their room. Both asleep, one of them softly snoring. He shut their door and opened Abby's. Bathed in the soft glow of a night-light, his

eight-year-old sister slept peacefully, clutching Mittens, a well-loved stuffed cat.

As Kai headed down to the first floor, the back door flew open and pictures in the stairwell rattled from the incoming draft. He stepped into the shadowy yard, now strewn with beach towels that had been draped over the clothesline. He hurried to the landing, where even in the dim light, he could see whitecaps on the tossed ocean.

With an abrupt switch, the wind stopped. The ocean settled, flat and calm. Clouds separated and the moon appeared.

Slowly, Kai scanned the water. Below, in a wide swath of moonlight, a figure swam toward the shore from the open sea. A large pod of dolphins circled the swimmer, their bodies and dorsal fins rising above and dipping below the surface. Dolphins had been known to protect and save humans in distress. Was someone in trouble?

He clambered down the six flights of wooden steps that zigzagged the bluff, and rushed across

The Seeds of Greed

For decades, Queen Califia and the mermaliens lived in the underwater Realm, peacefully and with great purpose. For there was no more important work than to protect and care for the contents of the Library of Despair and Sorrow.

When mourners cupped their hands and offered their sadness to the comfort of water, their tears—as little as a few and as much as a torrent—transformed into luminescent pinpoints and traveled the channels to the sea. The mermaliens received it and embraced the heartache, welcoming it to the shelter of the Realm.

Even though the mermaliens were safe in the Below, an occasional ship would slowly cruise far above on the water's surface, the hull a dark and shadowy ghost. As the years passed, the ships appeared with greater

In preparation, Queen Califia ordered the rock towers built and repeated the series of chants and spells. When the mythic ancestors revealed themselves once more, she appealed to them for a defense of last resort.

They did not respond with mystic powers or weapons. Instead, they foretold an arrival, chorusing, "A descendant warrior from the queen's lineage will lead the Realm into a fight-to-the-finish battle to secure the queen's power once and for all."

Queen Califia realized then that her progenies were the greatest hope for salvation. Resolved, she trained those in her lineage with diligence. They, in turn, vigorously prepared each generation that followed, with the hope that when the hour of contest was upon them, an heir apparent—the descendant warrior—might emerge and persevere to secure the Realm.

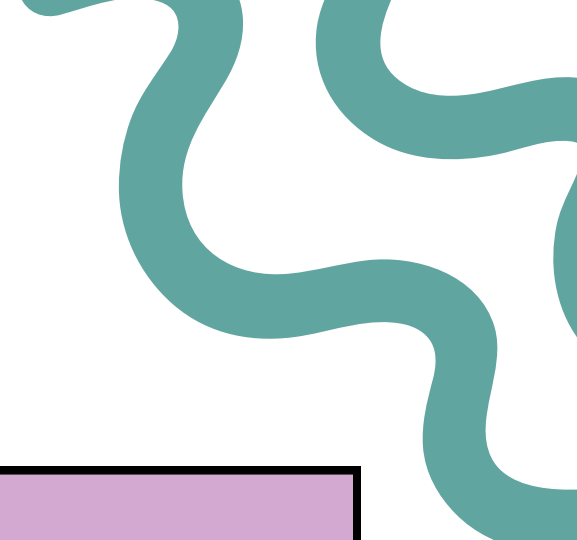
“He tossed the pillow to the floor, stumbled across the room, and opened the slider to the balcony.”

“In preparation, Queen Califia ordered the rock towers built and repeated the series of chants and spells.”

Use these pages to find quotes and split them up.



Card Examples



Quotes from the main storyline of the book

“Kai’s heart pounded as he grabbed it and sidled back toward Abby.” pg 70

“When Kai pushed open the locker room door, there was none of the usual banter, and everyone avoided his eyes.” pg 103

“Kai tried to settle his mind as he tiptoed through the house.” pg 77

“Kai slipped Cali’s leash around his ankle and followed.” pg 80

Quotes from the mythological storyline of the book

“The queen instructed her warriors to build twelve rock towers...” pg 75

“She sent a contingent to spy on one galleon.” pg 93

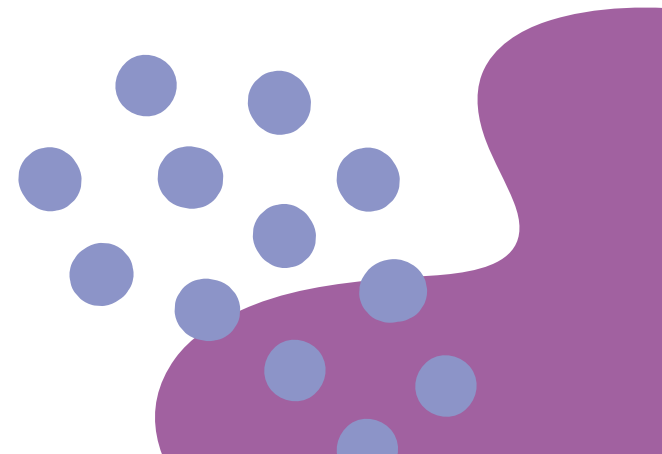
“When Queen Calafia discovered the theft, she once again saw the inevitable.” pg 94

“During Queen Calafia’s reign, she suspected that the island was slowly descending into the Pacific.” pg 74



Directions

- To begin, find a partner with someone in the class and take out your book if you brought it.
- Next, from your teacher, get a pile of cards that have 1st person and 3rd person quotes from the book *El Niño*.
- Take turns with your partner picking a card from the pile.
- Each person will read their card, and together you can decide if you think it is 1st person point of view or 3rd person point of view.
- After you have decided which one it is, make piles corresponding to each point of view.
- Once you have gone through all the cards, use your book if you have it to check if you were right.

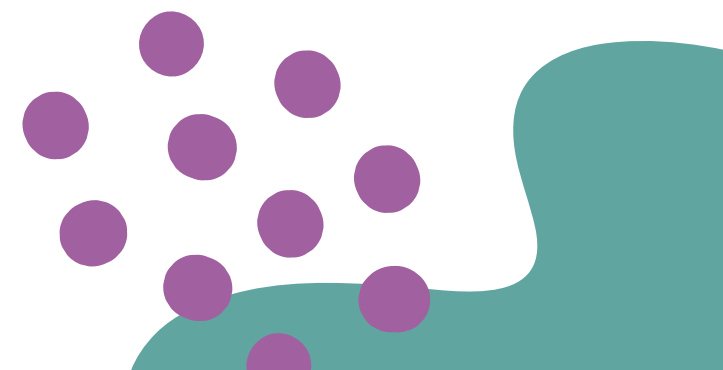




Additional Suggestions



- Students could also draw the character like Kai or Cali, and then students would have to use speech bubbles above them in either 1st or 3rd person.
- Another creative artist option could be having two separate boxes for “Everyday Life” and “Mythological,” and then students draw a scene from the book of how they see it in first or third person, and then they could compare those drawing scenes.
- These are great for students who would like to express things through art, or for younger grades to understand.
- An idea for bilingual learners could also be putting the quotes in Spanish and having them separate it to two different piles as well.



The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present the

2025 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 8 | Boulder Public Library



**SALINA
YOON**



**NYASHA
WILLIAMS**



**DENISE
VEGA**



**PAM
MUÑOZ RYAN**



**RITA
WILLIAMS-GARCIA**



**SHAREE
MILLER**



Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Boulder Public Library (Main Branch) - 1001 Arapahoe Ave.
Free parking available

This **free event** includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

The CU Children's Book Festival is supported by a grant from the CU Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES)



See the schedule & register:
[colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest)

BOULDER
PUBLIC LIBRARY

 School of Education
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

 **Boulder**
Bookstore

We also hope you can join us on Saturday, November 8 at the Boulder Public Library to meet Pam Muñoz Ryan and hear more about El Niño in-person...along with other authors and illustrators! For more information, visit

<https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest>