The boy made of lightning

The first children's book

On the life of Voting Rights Pioneer

Willie Velasquez

For grades 3 - up.
Interactive for iPad only through Apple iBooks Free

By Barbara Renaud Gonzalez
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www.willievelasquezbook.com

Narrated by Congressman Joaquin Castro

Synopsis

Willie Velasquez
1944 - 1988

The boy made of lightning is a children's story of how one boy changed the world because he listened to his calling.

Willie Velasquez is a typical Mexican--American boy from the barrios of San Antonio, Texas, who rescues a man drowning in a creek because of the constant flooding. That day is a turning point as he finds his conciencia.
When he wakes up the next morning, he knows that he's supposed to stop the flooding.
And so Willie embarks on his life's journey -- college; voter registration in his barrio and the Southwest, even the Indian reservations; and court battles, culminating in his receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

Little by little, millions of Latin@s begin to vote -- for their own representatives -- and the flooding stops.

This story is a magical treatment of an intensely political man who worshipped -- democracy. San Antonio is rendered in its rich-green tropicalness, and Willie remains a guayabera-wearing child throughout the book.

This book breaks literary ground in its marriage of technology and the telling of a civil rights story that is sorely needed in classrooms across the country. It includes an original narrative based on a story told to the author by Willie's late mother, original art, original music, pop-ups and sound. Written in the bilingual language of San Antonio, with touch-translations. (A curriculum guide is in the works). While it is targeted to children, high school students and adults will enjoy the story and likely will ask for more context.

Barbara Renaud Gonzalez's first novel, Golondrina, why did you leave me? was the first Chicana novel to be published by The University of Texas Press, Chicana Matters, 2009.
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