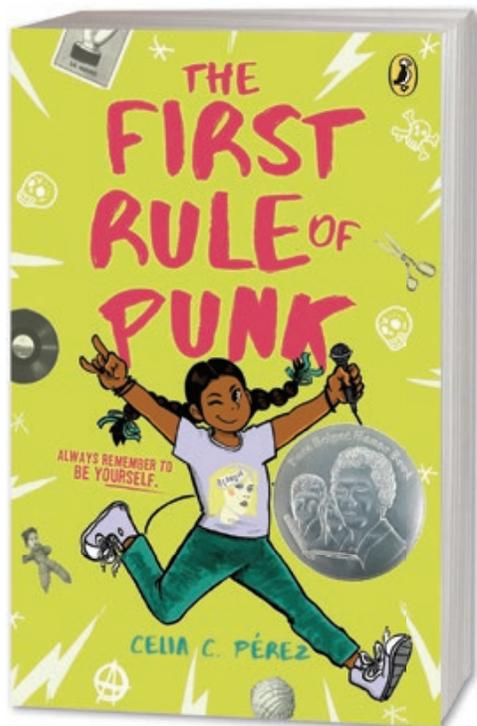


A 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book

The First Rule of Punk is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.



There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: Be yourself.

The real Malú loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts

a band, Malú finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself!

Zines filled with black-and-white illustrations and collage art throughout make *The First Rule of Punk* a perfect pick for fans of books like *Roller Girl* and online magazines like *Rookie*.

“Armed with a microphone and a pair of scissors, this book is all about creating something new and awesome in the world. Malú rocks!”

—**Victoria Jamieson**, author and illustrator of the *New York Times* bestselling and Newbery Honor-winning *Roller Girl*

Discussion Questions

1. On page 33, Malú mentions Frida Kahlo is her favorite artist. What comparisons do you see between them?
2. On page 49, a girl in Malú's class asks the question, "What are you?" Have you ever experienced someone asking another person this question? It is what's considered a microaggression. What do you know about microaggression? What can kids do when they or their friends experience it? How does Malú react?
3. What are some words Malú uses to define the "modern girl" and how is she different from the "perfect señorita" she imagines her mother would like her to be?
4. On page 112, Malú and her mother talk about the difference between being "real Mexican" and "half-Mexican." Why does Malú feel she's not as Mexican as her "super-Mexican" mother? Why do you suppose her mother wants her to learn so much about what it means to be Mexican? How does this make Malú, who is biracial, feel?
5. On page 134, Malú learns that a "coconut" is brown on the outside, white on the inside. This is another verbal microaggression Malú experiences. What does this mean? How does she react?
6. On page 143, Malú's dad says, "Turning an insult into something you embrace is a good way of empowering yourself." What are some other groups that have reclaimed words used as insults and began using them themselves? What does this mean both for groups that do this and those who have oppressed them by creating the name in the first place?
7. On page 180, Ellie suggests they start a petition. Why does she want them to do it? How do petitions accomplish social change?
8. Compare the mother-daughter relationship on page 190 between Señora Oralia and Mrs. Hidalgo to the relationship between Malú and her mother. What similarities and differences do you see?
9. On page 244, Malú sees an ofrenda and learns about Día de los Muertos, which Malú says is "NOT Mexican Halloween." What is Día de los Muertos? What is an ofrenda? What do you learn about the dead and their place in Mexican cultural practices from this scene and exchange?
10. What is "un pajarito quetzal"? Why does Malú look like one? Research what the bird represents according to Mexican history and tradition. How is this connected to who Malú is becoming? (283)
11. On page 296, Malú defines what it means to be punk. What does it mean to you to be punk? Why could this be considered a good thing?