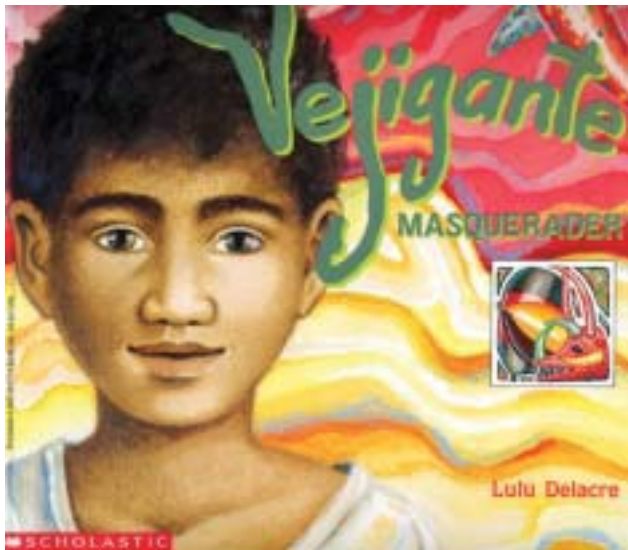


# Read VEJIGANTE MASQUERADER

## Read the Book

Find Out What Happens at Carnival



*Vejigante Masquerader* . Text and Illustration  
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Ramón lives in Ponce, a town in Puerto Rico, where a month-long festival called Carnival is celebrated every year in February. People dress up in bright costumes with papier-mâché masks resembling devilish animals, and hold *vejigas*, colorfully painted balloon-like cow bladders. The people who hold the vejigas are called *vejigantes*, and they travel through the streets playing pranks on people. Ramón has always been too young to be a carnival vejigante, but this year he is determined to join the bigger boys in the Carnival celebration. For nine days he has secretly been making his first vejigante costume. Find out what happens when Ramón goes to his first Carnival as a vejigante and the trouble he gets into after playing tricks on others.

## Explore the Objects



Visit the National Museum of American History's exhibition, *A Collector's Vision of Puerto Rico* online at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/vidal/about/?id=5>. to discover some of the original colorful masks and costumes used during Carnival.

A mask used in the celebration of Carnival in Puerto Rico. From the Teodoro Vidal collection at the National Museum of American History, Behring Center.

## About the Author

Author & Illustrator Lulu Delacre

I was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, the middle child in a family of three daughters. Growing up on the island was a fun-filled experience, where climbing up the tamarindo tree with a friend to eat its fruit was as commonplace as hunting for tiny brown lizards. I used to gently open their mouths and hang them from my earlobes as earrings.

My earliest recollections of painting—I must have been five then—go back to my grandmother’s house. She would give me white sheets of paper on which I would draw as I lay on the floor of her bedroom. I don’t remember her ever throwing away one of my pictures.

I had my first formal art training when I was ten. By the time I entered the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Puerto Rico, I knew I wanted a career in art. Later, I was accepted at L’Ecole Superieure d’Arts Graphiques in Paris, France. That’s when I knew I wanted to become an illustrator of children’s books.



Author & Illustrator Lulu Delacre. Photo Courtesy of the author. To learn more, visit [www.luludelacre.com](http://www.luludelacre.com).

I dreamed of creating books inspired by the folklore I grew up with, books that celebrated the songs and dances of my people. I wanted to share the colorful traditions that were a part of my life on the island, and the tales and legends that were told to me and that later I retold to my own children as we walked the cobblestone streets of Old San Juan.



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