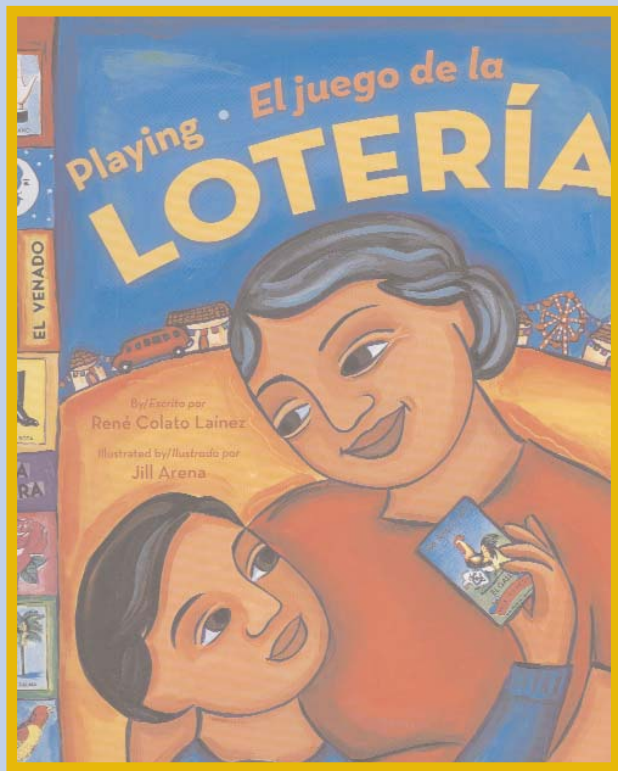


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René Colato Laínez was born in El Salvador. His picture books have been honored by the Latino Book Award, the Paterson Prize for Books for Young People, the California Collection for Elementary Readers, the Tejas Star Book Award Selection and the New Mexico Book Award. He was named "Top Ten New Latino Authors to Watch (and Read)" by latinostories.com. He is a graduate of the Vermont College MFA program in Writing for Children & Young Adults.