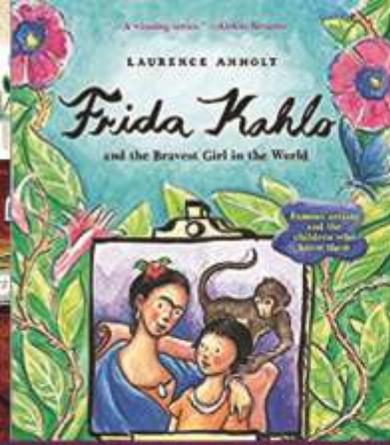
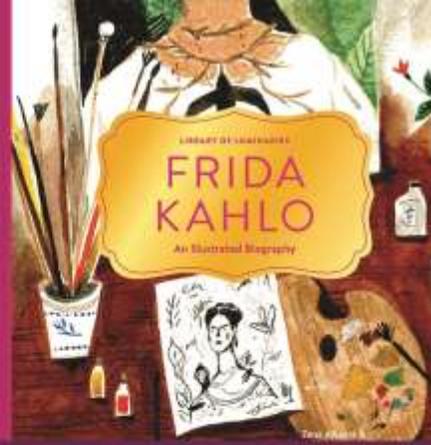
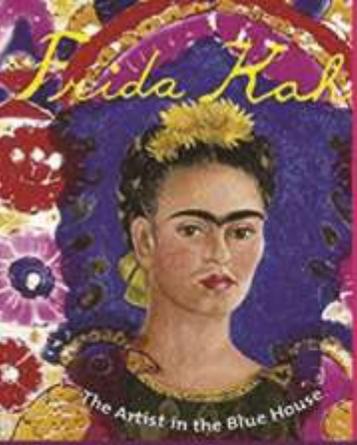
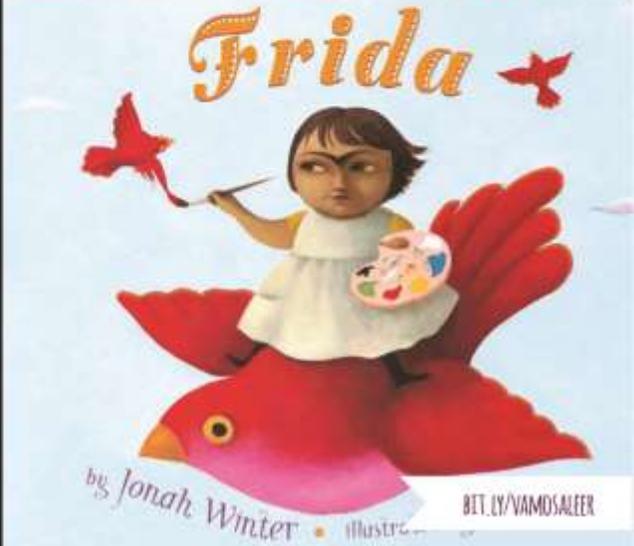
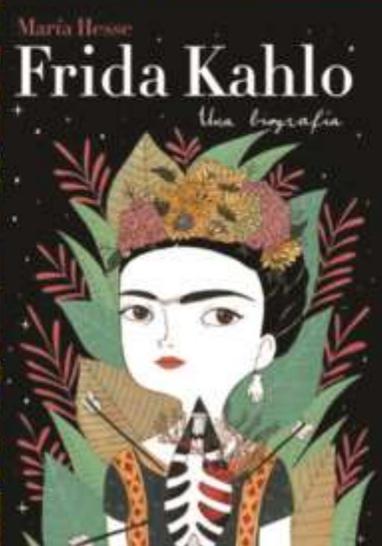
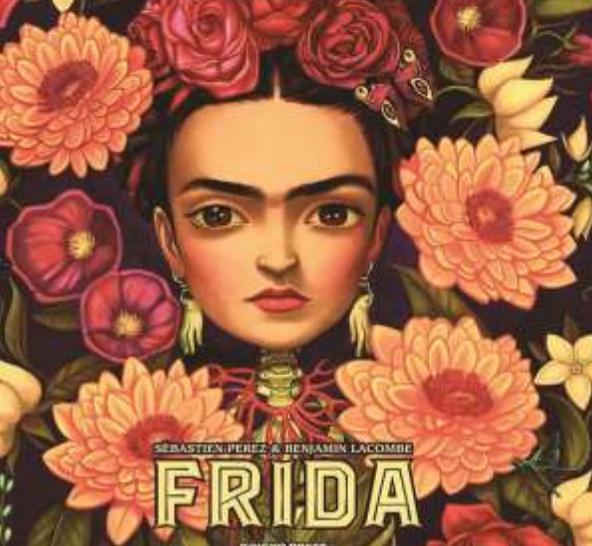
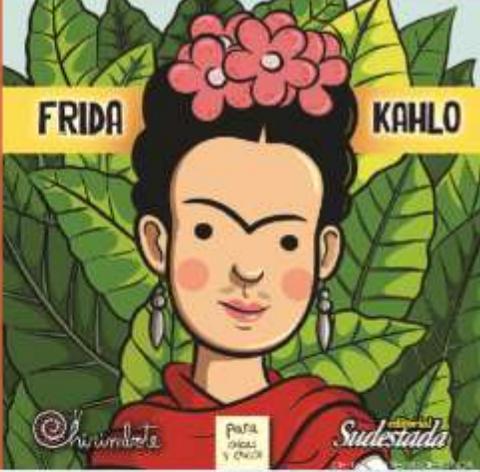
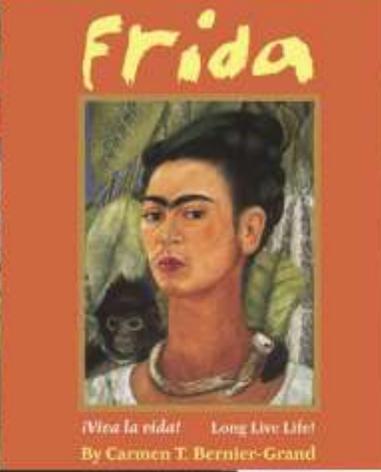
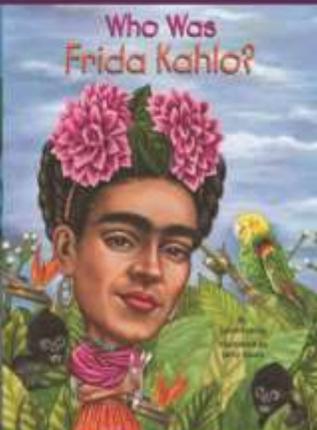
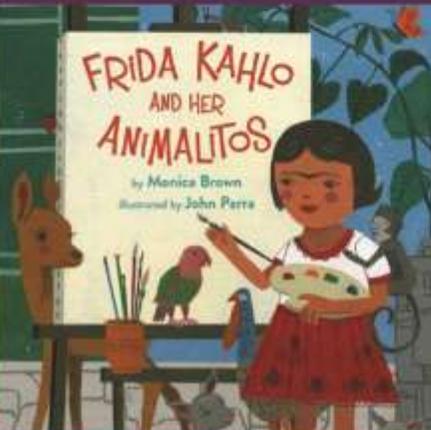
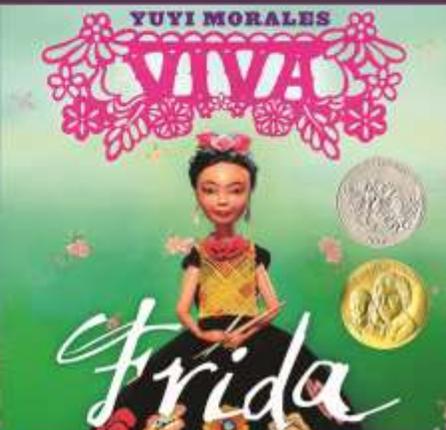
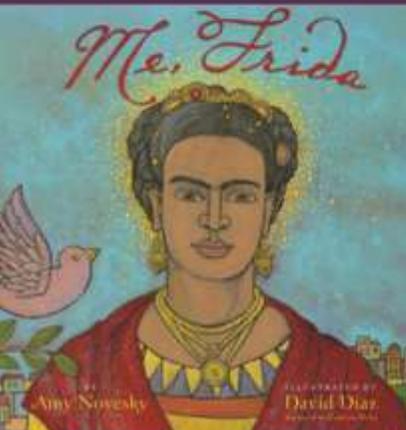


## **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Note: Where books have been included about Diego Rivera, it is because they also provide substantive content about Frida Kahlo. On the next page we have provided a quick visual reference for many of the books listed here, though it is not a complete representation of the bibliography that follows.



# 15 CHILDREN'S AND YA BOOKS ABOUT FRIDA KAHLO



## Children's Literature

*Counting With/Contando Con Frida (English and Spanish Edition)* written by Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein and illustrated by Citali Reyes. Grades Preschool+

Introduce your baby to the life of one of Mexico's most iconic painters, Frida Kahlo, in English and Spanish. Lil' Libros' colorful and cultural books will inspire parents to read to their child at the earliest age. Lil' Libros baby board books uses a simple one word/one image per page format to introduce the littlest readers to first concepts such as numbers, colors, and body parts. Lil' Libros also introduces children to Latin American culture, history, and traditions!

*Frida Kahlo (Little People, Big Dreams)* written by Isabel Sanchez Vegara and illustrated by Gee Fan Eng. Grades Preschool +

In this new series, discover the lives of outstanding people from designers and artists to scientists. All of them went on to achieve incredible things, yet all of them began life as a little child with a dream. The second book follows Frida Kahlo, whose desire to study medicine was destroyed by a childhood accident. Frida began painting from her bedside and produced over 140 works, culminating in a solo exhibition in America. This inspiring and informative little biography comes with extra facts about Frida's life at the back.

*Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos/ Frida Kahlo y sus Animalitos* written by Monica Brown and illustrated by John Parra. Grades K+

*Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos*, written by Monica Brown and illustrated by John Parra, is based on the life of one of the world's most influential painters, Frida Kahlo, and the animals that inspired her art and life. The fascinating Mexican artist Frida Kahlo is remembered for her self-portraits, her dramatic works featuring bold and vibrant colors. Her work brought attention to Mexican and indigenous culture and she is also renowned for her works celebrating the female form. Brown's story recounts Frida's beloved pets—two monkeys, a parrot, three dogs, two turkeys, an eagle, a black cat, and a fawn—and playfully considers how Frida embodied many wonderful characteristics of each animal.

*Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. Grades 1+

This charming book introduces one of the most popular artists of the twentieth century, Diego Rivera, to young readers. It tells the story of Diego as a young, mischievous boy who

## Educator's Guide to Frida Kahlo's (Self) Representations

demonstrated a clear passion for art and then went on to become one of the most famous painters in the world. Duncan Tonatiuh also prompts readers to think about what Diego would paint today. Just as Diego's murals depicted great historical events in Mexican culture or celebrated native peoples, if Diego were painting today, what would his artwork depict? How would his paintings reflect today's culture?

*Frida* written by Jonah Winter and illustrated by Ana Juan (available in English and Spanish). Grades 1+

When her mother was worn out from caring for her five sisters, her father gave her lessons in brushwork and color. When polio kept her bedridden for nine months, drawing saved her from boredom. When a bus accident left her in unimaginable agony, her paintings expressed her pain and depression - and eventually, her joys and her loves. Over and over again, Frida Kahlo turned the challenges of her life into art. Now Jonah Winter and Ana Juan have drawn on both the art and the life to create a playful, insightful tribute to one of the twentieth century's most influential artists. Viva Frida!

*Frida Kahlo: Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artist* written by Mike Venezia. Grades 1+

Clever illustrations and story lines, together with full-color reproductions of actual paintings, give children a light yet realistic overview of each artist's life and style in these fun and educational books.

*Viva Frida* written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales (bilingual edition). Grades 1+

Frida Kahlo, one of the world's most famous and unusual artists is revered around the world. Her life was filled with laughter, love, and tragedy, all of which influenced what she painted on her canvases. Distinguished author/illustrator Yuyi Morales illuminates Frida's life and work in this elegant and fascinating book.

Related Resource: An excellent resource to accompany the book is [Morales' video](#) on the process of creating it.

*Frida Kahlo (Little People, Big Dreams)* written by Isabel Sanchez Vegara and Gee Fan Eng. Grades 1+

In this new series, discover the lives of outstanding people from designers and artists to scientists. All of them went on to achieve incredible things, yet all of them began life as a little

*Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World: Famous Artists and the Children Who Knew Them* written by Laurence Anholt. Grades 3+

Children will be delighted by this newest addition to the highly-acclaimed *Anholt's Artists Books for Children* series. This time, award-winning author and illustrator Laurence Anholt tells the charming story of *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World*. When a little girl named Mariana is sent to have her portrait painted by Frida, she is scared. Well, that's okay, Frida tells her. Everyone feels scared sometimes. Now take my hand and let's go inside. Soon, Mariana meets all of Frida's pets, from a handsome parrot and funny spider monkey to a little dog, baby deer, and beautiful eagle. Frida's home is full of wonders, and her studio is brimming with strange but beautiful paintings. As Mariana sits for her portrait, she learns all about Frida's life, and begins to think of her as the bravest woman in the world. Frida thinks Mariana is very special too and she's got a wonderful surprise in store for her! Once again, Laurence Anholt inspires children with this much-loved art history series, which has sold more than one million copies around the world. The story, enhanced with Anholt's illustrations on every page, include several that are reproductions of Kahlo's famous paintings.

*Frida Kahlo: The Artist in the Blue House* written by Magdalena Holzhey. Grades 3+

This fascinating look into the world of the artist Frida Kahlo introduces children to the themes that infused Kahlo's vibrant paintings, while demonstrating how her life influenced her art. Parrots, trees, deer, family members, friends, flowers, the sun and the moon—Frida Kahlo's use of symbolism and color wonderfully lends itself to teaching children about the artistic process. Through illustrations of her work and photographs of Kahlo and her family, children are encouraged to learn about her life, artworks, and important relationships. An engaging text and gorgeous reproductions call attention to Kahlo's use of bold color and natural imagery, as well as her ingenious use of perspective, collage, and varying styles. Children will learn much about creative self-expression through this beautifully designed and insightful book about Kahlo's life and work.

*Frida Kahlo: The Artist Who Painted Herself* written by Margaret Frith and illustrated by Tomi dePaola. Grades 3+

## Educator's Guide to Frida Kahlo's (Self) Representations

Through original artwork by the renowned artist Tomie dePaola—a longtime aficionado of Frida Kahlo's work—as well as beautiful reproductions of Kahlo's paintings, this latest *Smart About* book explores the creative, imaginative world of Mexico's most celebrated female artist.

*Who Was Frida Kahlo?* Written by Sarah Fabiney and illustrated by Jerry Hoare. Grades 3+

You can always recognize a painting by Kahlo because she is in nearly all—with her black braided hair and colorful Mexican outfits. A brave woman who was an invalid most of her life, she transformed herself into a living work of art. As famous for her self-portraits and haunting imagery as she was for her marriage to another famous artist, Diego Rivera, this strong and courageous painter was inspired by the ancient culture and history of her beloved homeland, Mexico. Her paintings continue to inform and inspire popular culture around the world.

*Me, Frida* written by Amy Novesky and illustrated by David Diaz. Grades 3+

Like a tiny bird in a big city, Frida Kahlo feels lost and lonely when she arrives in San Francisco with her husband, the famous artist Diego Rivera. But as Frida begins to explore San Francisco on her own, she discovers the inspiration she needs to become one of the most celebrated artists of all time. *Me, Frida* is an exhilarating true story that encourages children to believe in themselves so they can make their own dreams soar.

*Anti Princesas #1: Frida Kahlo Para Chicas y Chicos* written by Nadia Fink and Pitu Saá. Grades 5+

The first in the Anti-Princess series explores the life of Frida Kahlo, the world-renowned Mexican artist that dedicated her life to creating beauty and expressing her most authentic self despite the many challenges she faced. Engaging nonfiction text is coupled with colorful illustrations, photographs and activity pages as readers learn about an extraordinary woman and a true superhero.

*Diego Rivera: An Artist for the People* written by Susan Goldman Rubin. Grades 5+

*Diego Rivera* offers young readers unique insight into the life and artwork of the famous Mexican painter and muralist. The book follows Rivera's career, looking at his influences and tracing the evolution of his style. His work often called attention to the culture and struggles of the Mexican working class. Believing that art should be for the people, he created public murals in both the United States and Mexico, examples of which are included. The book contains a list of museums where you can see Rivera's art, a historical note, a glossary, and a bibliography.

child with a dream. The second book follows Frida Kahlo, whose desire to study medicine was destroyed by a childhood accident. Frida began painting from her bedside and produced over 140 works, culminating in a solo exhibition in America. This inspiring and informative little biography comes with extra facts about Frida's life at the back.

*Frida: Viva la vida! Long Live Life!* written by Carmen Bernier-Grand. Grade 6+

"Wearing the white huipil with the lavender tassel, // hiding my amputated leg in red-leather boots, // I wheel the wheelchair to the Blue House studio that Diego so lovingly built for me. // I dip the brush in blood-red paint and, embracing life with all its light, // I print on a watermelon cut open—like I am—¡Viva la vida!— // a hymn to nature and life." Frida Kahlo, a native of Mexico, is described here in biographical poems accompanied by her own artwork. Both text and images reveal the anguish and joy of her two marriages to muralist Diego Rivera, her life-long suffering from a crippling bus accident, and her thirst for life, even as she tasted death. Her favorite motto was: ¡Viva la vida! (Long live life!). Back matter includes excerpts from Frida's diary and letters, a prose biography, a chronology of the artist's life, a glossary of Spanish words, sources, and notes.

## Young Adult Literature

*Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life* written by Catherine Reef. Grades 7+

Nontraditional, controversial, rebellious, and politically volatile, the Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are remembered for their provocative paintings as well as for their deep love for each other. Their marriage was one of the most tumultuous and infamous in history—filled with passion, pain, betrayal, revolution, and, above all, art that helped define the twentieth century. Catherine Reef's inspiring and insightful dual biography features numerous archival photos and full-color reproductions of both artists' work. The book includes useful research resources such as endnotes, bibliography, and a timeline.

*Frida Kahlo: Her Photos* written by James Oles and Horacio Fernández. Grades 7+

When Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) died in 1954, her husband Diego Rivera asked the poet Carlos Pellicer to turn her family home, the fabled Blue House, into a museum. Pellicer selected some paintings, drawings, photographs, books and ceramics, maintaining the space just as Kahlo and Rivera had arranged it to live and work in. The rest of the objects, clothing, documents, drawings

and letters, as well as over 6,000 photographs collected by Kahlo over the course of her life, were put away in bathrooms that had been converted into storerooms. This incredible trove remained hidden for more than half a century, until, just a few years ago, these storerooms and wardrobes were opened up. Kahlo's photograph collection was a major revelation among these finds, a testimony to the tastes and interests of the famous couple, not only through the images themselves but also through the telling annotations inscribed upon them. *Frida Kahlo: Her Photos* allows us to speculate about Kahlo's and Rivera's likes and dislikes, and to document their family origins; it supplies a thrilling and hugely significant addition to our knowledge of Kahlo's life and work.

*Frida's Fiestas: Recipes and Reminiscences of Life with Frida Kahlo* written by Marie-Pierre Colee and Guadalupe Rivera.

*Frida's Fiestas* is a personal account in words and pictures of many important and happy events in the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, and a scrapbook, assembled by her stepdaughter, of recipes for more than 100 dishes that Frida served to family and friends with her characteristic enthusiasm for all the pleasures of life. Full-color photographs.

*Kahlo* written by Andrea Kettenmann. Grades 8+

The arresting pictures of Frida Kahlo (1907–54) were in many ways expressions of trauma. Through a near-fatal road accident at the age of 18, failing health, a turbulent marriage, miscarriage and childlessness, she transformed the afflictions into revolutionary art. In literal or metaphorical self-portraiture, Kahlo looks out at the viewer with an audacious glare, rejecting her destiny as a passive victim and rather intertwining expressions of her experience into a hybrid surreal-real language of living: hair, roots, veins, vines, tendrils and fallopian tubes. Many of her works also explore the Communist political ideals which Kahlo shared with Rivera. The artist described her paintings as “the most sincere and real thing that I could do in order to express what I felt inside and outside of myself.” This book introduces a rich body of Kahlo's work to explore her unremitting determination as an artist, and her significance as a painter, feminist icon, and a pioneer of Latin American culture.

*Lucky Broken Girl* written by Ruth Behar. Grades 5+

In this unforgettable multicultural coming-of-age narrative—based on the author's childhood in the 1960s—a young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed. Ruthie's plight will intrigue readers, and her powerful story of strength and resilience, full of color, light, and poignancy, will stay with them for a long time. Ruthie Mizrahi and her family recently emigrated from Castro's Cuba to New York City. Just when she's finally beginning to gain confidence in her mastery of English—and enjoying her reign as her neighborhood's hopscotch queen—a horrific car accident leaves her in a body cast and confined her to her bed for a long recovery. As Ruthie's world shrinks because of her inability to move, her powers of observation and her heart grow larger and she comes to understand how fragile life is, how vulnerable we all are as human beings, and how friends, neighbors, and the power of the arts can sweeten even the worst of times.

*Rad Women Worldwide: Artists, and Athletes, Pirates and Punks, and Other Revolutionaries Who Shaped History.* Grades 6+

*Rad Women Worldwide* tells fresh, engaging, and amazing tales of perseverance and radical success by pairing well-researched and riveting biographies with powerful and expressive cut-paper portraits. The book features an array of diverse figures from 430 BCE to 2016, spanning 31 countries around the world, from Hatshepsut (the great female king who ruled Egypt peacefully for two decades) and Malala Yousafzi (the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize) to Poly Styrene (legendary teenage punk and lead singer of X-Ray Spex) and Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft (polar explorers and the first women to cross Antarctica). An additional 250 names of international rad women are also included as a reference for readers to continue their own research. This progressive and visually arresting book is a compelling addition to women's history and belongs on the shelf of every school, library, and home. Together, these stories show the immense range of what women have done and can do. May we all have the courage to be rad! For teachers, this book is appropriate for grades 6-8 and could be used in either Social Studies or English classes, or as part of a text for a multidisciplinary unit. It can also be used as a Common Core text for grades 6-8 Social Studies/History

*The Diary of Frida Kahlo: An Intimate Self-Portrait* written by Frida Kahlo and Carlos Fuentes. \*

Published here in its entirety, Frida Kahlo's amazing illustrated journal documents the last ten years of her turbulent life. This passionate, often surprising, intimate record, kept under lock and key for some forty years in Mexico, reveals many new dimensions in the complex persona of this remarkable Mexican artist. Covering the years 1944-45, the 170-page journal contains Frida's thoughts, poems, and dreams, and reflects her stormy relationship with her husband, Diego Rivera, Mexico's famous artist. The seventy watercolor illustrations in the journal - some lively sketches, several elegant self-portraits, others complete paintings - offer insights into her creative process, and show her frequently using the journal to work out pictorial ideas for her canvases. The text entries, written in Frida's round, full script in brightly colored inks, add an almost decorative quality, making the journal as captivating to look at as it is to read. Frida's childhood, her political sensibilities, and her obsession with Diego are all illuminated in witty phrases and haunting images. This personal document, published in a complete full-color facsimile edition, will add greatly to the understanding of her unique and powerful vision and her enormous courage in the face of more than thirty-five operations to correct injuries she had sustained in an accident at the age of eighteen. The facsimile is accompanied by an introduction by the world-renowned Mexican man of letters Carlos Fuentes and a complete translation of the diary's text. An essay on the place of the diary in Frida's work and in art history at large, as well as commentaries on the images, is provided by Sarah M. Lowe.

*Library of Luminaries: Frida Kahlo: An Illustrated Biography* written by Zena Alkayat and illustrated by Nina Cosford.

\* Please Note: This is labeled as an adult text, but portions may be appropriate for use with young adults.

Step into the world of one of history's most celebrated artists and feminist icons: Frida Kahlo. This beautifully illustrated biography is full of colorful details that illuminate the woman behind the artwork, including excerpts from Kahlo's personal letters and diaries on her childhood dreams of becoming a doctor, the accident that changed the course of her life, and her love affairs with famous artists. Featuring handwritten text alongside lovely illustrations in a charming case with foil stamping and debossed details, *Library of Luminaries: Frida Kahlo* provides a captivating window into the vibrant life, work, and creative vision of the beloved Mexican artist.

## Adult Literature

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*Frida* written by Sebastian Perez and Frida Kahlo and illustrated by Benjamin Lacombe. Grades 8+

\*Please Note: Although indicated as an adult book, there are only two explicit Kahlo paintings that could prove difficult for the classroom. All text/illustrations are otherwise suited to YA readers.

A sumptuous feast of a book, *Frida* allows the reader to enter this revered artist's world, both literally and metaphorically. Through a series of consecutive die-cut pages, one is drawn in passing through aspects of her life, art and creative process while exploring the themes that inspired her most, such as love, death and maternity. Iconic and visceral, her work has always had the ability to transcend borders and resonate with its honest and graphic depiction of the human condition. Until now, there has never been a greater homage. Excerpts from Frida Kahlo's personal diaries alternate with Sébastian Perez's poetic musings to give fresh insight and