



Lorenzo's Secret Mission (Piñata Books)

Lila Guzmán, Rick Guzmán

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Armed with a long knife, flint-lock musket, and his father's medical bag, fifteen-year-old Lorenzo Bannister sets off to fulfill his father's last, deathbed wish in the novel *Lorenzo's Secret Mission*. Lorenzo joins a secret flatboat operation delivering much-needed medicine and gunpowder to George Washington's army, leading the reader on a romping ride from the docks of New Orleans to the battlefields of the American Revolution. Trained as a medic by his father, Lorenzo makes his way up the Mississippi and the Ohio rivers, witnessing the horrors of slavery and political warfare. Hoping for a better future, Lorenzo recounts his adventures and his involvement with famous people that he meets, including George Washington and Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana who helped the American rebels.

In the tradition of Johnny Tremain, this action-packed historical novel for young people tells the story of the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution. Filled with adventure and the questions of freedom that plagued the beginning of the United States, the reader cannot help but be captured by Lorenzo's zeal for life and his crusade for a better future not only for himself, but for the people that he loves.

Critics offer commendation for *Lorenzo's Secret Mission*. The School Library Journal writes, "One of the book's strengths is its depiction of the cultural diversity (French, Spanish, Choctaw, etc.) that was vital to the Revolutionary cause, and which is the foundation of New Orleans heritage." KLIATT describes this as "a story that delicately and intricately weaves fictional characters with legendary heroes, such as George Washington, to make history come alive." *Lorenzo's Secret Mission* received 2nd Place in the 2003 Arizona Literary Contest and Book Awards in the Published Children's Literature category and was a finalist in the ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Young Adult category.

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