***First Rule of Punk***

By Celia C. Perez

### **Annotation:**

Punk rocker, Zine maker, María Luisa is moving to Chicago with her Mexican-American mother and starting 7th grade in a new school. When she begins her first day with a rebellious start, she needs to figure out how she’ll fit in and still hold on to her unique character.

**Book Talk:**

Malu is called a coconut, but what makes her one? Is it her punk rock style, her rebellious nature, her vegan diet, or her Mexican-American heritage? After Malu moves to Chicago with her Mexican-American mother, she has to find her place in a new school and use music and her creative nature to stand up for what is right

**Book Trailers:**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZN4PgOGjZI> - ending is for a school visit

### **Author on the Internet:**

* Website: <http://celiacperez.com/>
* Twitter: @CeliaCPerez
* Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/celiacperez/

### **Items to use in a library display**

* Day of the Dead skulls, calaveras, Zines, record albums (vinyl), Chuck Taylor shoes, skateboards, duct tape, Whitman’s Sampler box,

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics:**

* María Luisa (AKA Malu) has to move to Chicago with her mother and is not happy about this. She creates a Zine to try to convince her mother not to move. What would you do to try to convince your mother not to move?
* Malu expresses her unique character in a variety of ways. In which ways do you express your personality?
* Malu creates zines for a variety of reasons with a variety of illustrations to express herself. What are three illustrations you would include in a zine to express yourself?
* Compare and contrast the relationships Malu has with her mother and her father.
* Why is Malu able to relate to Mrs. Hidalgo? Provide details from the story to support your response.

**First Line of the Book:**

* “Dad says punk rock only comes in one volume: loud. So when I slipped my headphones over my ears, I turned the music up until bass strings thumped, cymbals hissed, and guitar strings squealed like they were having a conversation with each other.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s):**

* *The Ramones: American Punk Rock Band: an Unauthorized Rockography* by Brain J. Bowe
* *Zesty and Colorful Cuisine: The Food of Mexico* by Jan McDaniel

**What to Read Next:**

* *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
* *I Love Band!*  by Michelle Schusterman
* *My Year of Epic Rock* by Andrea Pyros

**Additional Resources:**

* Music:
* Celia C. Perez “playlist”: <http://celiacperez.com/playlist/>
* Punk music
* Latin or Mexican music
* Poetry: Poems by Jose’ Marti’
* Art/craft activity:
* How to Make a Zine: <http://www.readbrightly.com/how-to-make-zine/>
* Design t-shirts for the Co-Co’s band
* Make Mexican food, Vegetarian Mexican food
* Make “Worry Dolls”
* Reader’s Theater script: None available as of March 2018
* Interview with the author:
* <http://100scopenotes.com/2017/07/18/an-interview-with-celia-c-perez/>
* <http://www.bookweb.org/news/indies-introduce-qa-celia-c-p%C3%A9rez-37133>
* <https://www.npr.org/2017/09/01/547964121/celia-perezs-new-novel-the-first-rule-of-punk-comes-with-advice-for-adolescents>
* <http://changetherotation.com/interview-with-celia-c-perez-the-first-rule-of-punk.html#sthash.e7rdLV6v.dpbs>
* <http://www.allthewonders.com/podcasts/launching-a-reading-community-a-conversation-with-celia-perez-books-between-episode-33/>
* Book Study: No curriculum guides available as of March 2018
* Lesson ideas:
* Complete a study of the Day of the Dead and other Mexican traditions.
* Make Zines
* Study of punk music

**Name that Book:**

* “SuperMexican is my nickname for my Mom. She’s always trying to school me on stuff about Mexico and Mexican American people.” (p. 2) HB
* “I tried not to stare at her pink hair and tattoos. She looked like she might be Mexican, but I had never seen another Mexican punk.” (p. 34)HB
* “The green Fall Fiesta flyer was burning a hole in my backpack when I walked up to our building. But I’d have to wait to reread it because our neighbor, Señora Oralia, was sitting on a rocker on the porch. The sound of a woman’s voice, kind of mournful, almost like a wounded animal, filled the air. Goosebumps crawled up my arms. Señora Oralia looked up from what she was doing when I opened the gate.” (p. 87)HB
* “Forget her,” Joe said, swatting in her direction. “I’m hyped about this band. We can practice in my basement. My mom has stuff in there from her band days we can probably use.” (p. 134)HB
* “Thanks, Mrs. H,” I said, and followed Joe upstairs, still hearing the music in my head and Mrs. Hidalgo saying “like us.” She must not have known that I’m a coconut who doesn’t even eat cilantro. (p. 163)HB
* “That afternoon, I had bigger things to worry about than Selena. Like how to get ready for our talent show while avoiding Mom. She suddenly had a lot of thoughts about my daily visits to Joe’s after school.” (p. 201)HB
* “I send a text message to everyone asking them to meet at our table in the cafeteria on Friday. And then I worried that no one would show up. I was so nervous that I stuffed my worry dolls into the pocket of my jeans to have them with me at school that day.” (p. 257)HB
* “One, two, three,” we said in unison. “The Co-Co’s!” Hands together, hands apart. I silently wished for the confidence of all my favorite punk singers, and even of Lola B, to get me through the performance.” (p. 294)