

## Encuentros con Rubén: short stories which reflect the fight of a child against a rare disease

**LOCATION:** Seville

**DURATION:** 1'47"

**SUMMARY:** Writing has been his refuge. Rubén, who is barely 10 years old, has published his first book of short stories with the aim of raising fund to help her mother to afford the expenses by the rare disease he suffers since he was born and that forces him to receive chemotherapy every two weeks. Aged 6, he travelled from Paraguay to Seville looking for answers and finally was diagnosed at the Virgen del Rocío Hospital in Seville, where he is also being treated. This book, 'Encuentros con Rubén' (or Meetings with Rubén) includes short stories in which he intends to transmit joy to other kids. Despite his short age, Rubén has read almost one thousand books and has written several novels. His favourite authors are Borges and García Márquez.

**VTR:**

**AMBIENCE:** "Charlie loved reading..."

He is Rubén Darío, a boy with a name and a soul of a writer. He's just 10, but he has already edited his first book of short stories. Despite his short age he also knows what it is to suffer a rare disease, histiocytosis, which affects his immune system.

**LILIANA FLORES**  
Rubén's mother

"Late diagnosis has led to an advanced stage in Rubén. He receives chemotherapy since 2011".

**IGNACIO GUTIÉRREZ**  
Paediatric oncologist

"It has become a chronic disease. He needs daily medication and comes to the hospital every fifteen days".

He was finally diagnosed at the Virgen del Rocío Hospital in Seville at the age of six, after a long journey which started in Paraguay, his country, with stops in Brazil and Argentina. Reading has been his refuge during this whole time.

**RUBÉN AVALOS**  
Author of 'Encuentros con Rubén'

*"I find a passion when I write. I create my own world, my own universe, my own story, where anything I want can happen".*

**LILIANA FLORES**  
Rubén's mother

"Despite what he suffers or that may be going through... so much pain, daily treatment; writing has helped Rubén, publishing a book as a way to escape, it has been one of the most powerful drugs".

**IGNACIO GUTIÉRREZ**  
Paediatric oncologist

*"A kind of motivation that enables him to overcome some obstacles, and that is of course an example for other children and families".*

'Encuentros con Rubén' includes 27 short stories. Everything he raises with this book will be used to finance his stay in Spain.

**RUBÉN AVALOS**  
Author of 'Encuentros con Rubén'

*"To pay the rent, to buy food, to buy more books..."*

**LILIANA FLORES**  
Rubén's mother

*"Rubén gives me strength every day".*

**AMBIENCE:** "Everybody has a unique and different gift, however, we mustn't discriminate anyone just because they are different from you, everybody is special".