


Relevant Literature on Latino/a Culture and Language Elementary Schools

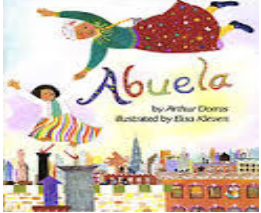

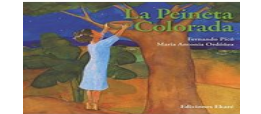
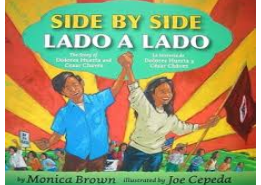
This list has been last updated in June 2016*


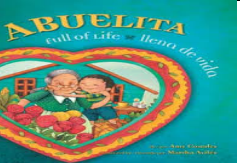
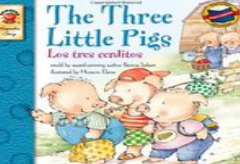
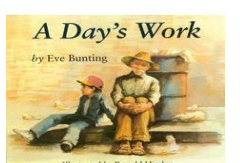
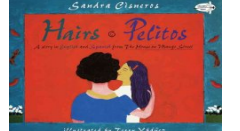
This list contains a variety of children’s literature covering a wide array of themes. These books are relevant for Latino/a students in the elementary grades but also for any other student. These books were selected because the characters in the stories reflect the diversity of the Latino community. The majority of the books are bilingual in Spanish and English and can be used in bilingual classrooms during the literacy block or in ESL settings to provide students with home language support. Some books are entirely in Spanish and can be used primarily during the home language arts time block. Other books are either entirely in English, or in English but with words in Spanish, which can be utilized primarily during the English portion of the bilingual class.

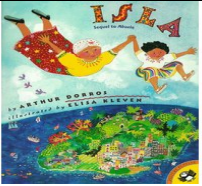
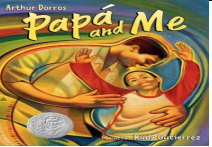
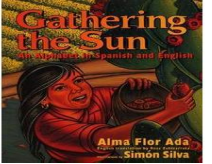


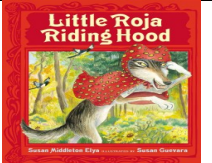
The books are organized by grade level and then by author for ease of navigation. The list also includes information on topics and multicultural issues, language(s) of the book, and a description taken from the webpages of Scholastic Book Wizard, La Casa Azul Bookstore, Lee & Low Books, among others.

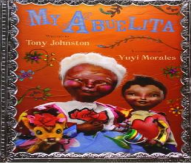
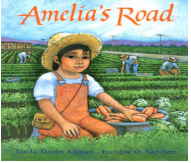
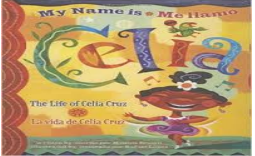
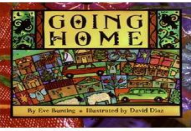
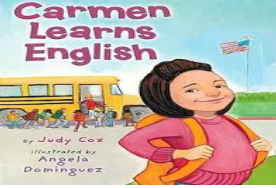
(We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this updated list: Laura Ascenzi-Moreno, Gladys Aponte, Andy Brown, Kathryn Carpenter, Cecilia, Espinosa, Sarah Hesson, Leo Smith, Cristian Solorza, Heather Woodley, and Hulda Yau.*

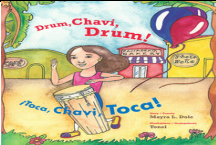

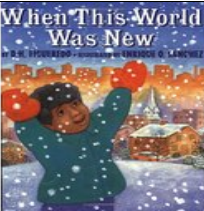
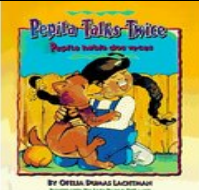
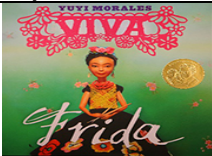
Title	Author	Grade	Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
 <p>The Secret Footprints</p>	Julia Alvarez; Fabian Negrin (illustrator)	PreK-2	The Dominican legend of the ciguapas, creatures who lived in underwater caves and whose feet were on backward so that humans couldn't follow their footprints, is reinvented by renowned author Julia Alvarez. Although the ciguapas fear humans, Guapa, a bold and brave ciguapa, can't help but be curious--especially about a boy she sees on the nights when she goes on the land to hunt for food. When she gets too close to his family and is discovered, she learns that some humans are kind. Even though she escapes unharmed and promises never to get too close to a human again, Guapa still sneaks over to the boy's house some evenings, where she finds a warm pastelito in the pocket of his jacket on the clothesline.	Dominican culture. Sense of community. Family values.	English

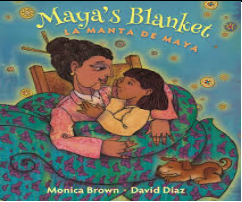
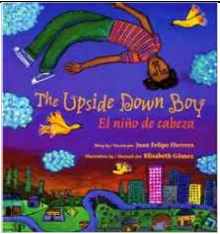
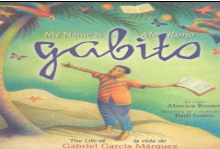
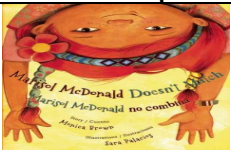
 <p>Abuela</p>	<p>Arthur Dorros</p>	<p>PreK-2</p>	<p>In this tasty trip, Rosalba is "always going places" with her grandmother--abuela . During one of their bird-feeding outings to the park, Rosalba wonders aloud, "What if I could fly?" Thus begins an excursion through the girl's imagination as she soars high above the tall buildings and buses of Manhattan, over the docks and around the Statue of Liberty with Abuela in tow. Each stop of the glorious journey evokes a vivid memory for Rosalba's grandmother and reveals a new glimpse of the woman's colorful ethnic origins.</p>	<p>Family. Bond between child and Grandparent. Love. Immigration. Ethnicity. New York City.</p>	<p>Translanguaged . English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish</p>
 <p>Welcome to my Neighborhood: A Barrio ABC and Bienvenidos a mi Barrio: Mi Mundo de la A a la Z.</p>	<p>Quiara Alegria Hudes; Shino Arihara (illustrator)</p>	<p>PreK-3</p>	<p>When Ava's friend Chien visits her in the barrio, she takes him on a tour of all of her favorite things about the neighborhood. From fire hydrants to ice-cream trucks, bodegas to trolley tracks, the sights and sounds of the barrio—even the less perfect things—come to life through the words of award-winning playwright Quiara Alegria Hudes.</p>	<p>A perfect way to get kids exploring and talking about what makes their own neighborhoods special</p>	<p>English. Also available in Spanish</p>
 <p>The Red Comb / La Peineta Colorada</p>	<p>Fernando Pico; Maria Antonia Ordonez (illustrator)</p>	<p>PreK-3</p>	<p>Based on historical fact and written with Puerto Rican idioms, this story of how a young girl and her grandmother help a runaway slave is an entertaining yet powerful tale, a discussion starter, and an educational tool.</p>	<p>Slavery. Compassion. Cultural comparison. Puerto Rican culture.</p>	<p>English. Also available in Spanish.</p>
 <p>Side by Side/Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez/La Historia de Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez.</p>	<p>Monica Brown; Joe Cepeda (illustrator)</p>	<p>PreK-3</p>	<p>Every day, thousands of farmworkers harvested the food that ended up on kitchen tables all over the country. But at the end of the day, when the workers sat down to eat, there were only beans on their own tables. Then Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez teamed up. Together they motivated the workers to fight for their rights and, in the process, changed history.</p>	<p>Immigration. Equal rights. Community. Stand up for each other.</p>	<p>Translanguaged . Bilingual book in English and Spanish.</p>

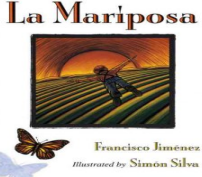
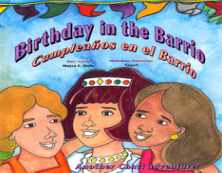


 <p>Smoky Night/ Noche de Humo</p>	<p>Eve Bunting; David Diaz (illustrator)</p>	<p>PreK-3</p>	<p>Eve Bunting's heartfelt story and David Diaz's dramatic illustrations create a compelling child's-eye view of urban violence. A young boy and his mother are forced to flee their apartment during a night of rioting in Los Angeles. Fires and looting force neighbors--who have always avoided one another--to come together in the face of danger and concern for their missing pets. David Diaz was awarded the Caldecott Medal for his bold acrylic paint and photo-collage illustrations.</p>	<p>Race relations. Family bond. Confronting adversity.</p>	<p>English. Also available in Spanish, Korean, Chinese.</p>
 <p>Abuelita Full of Life</p>	<p>Amy Costales; Martha Aviles (illustrator)</p>	<p>PreK-3</p>	<p>Jose is not sure what to expect when his grandmother from Mexico moves in except that he will certainly have to change his ways. What he discovers is that he doesn't mind one bit. Abuelita is full of surprises! She is full of life!</p>	<p>Family. Love. Bond between child and grandmother. Hispanic Culture.</p>	<p>Translanguaged English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>The Three Pigs: Los tres credos, Nacho, Tito, and Miguel</p>	<p>Bobbi Salinas</p>	<p>PreK-3</p>	<p>In this beloved tale, the three pigs find out whose house really is the strongest when they each stand up to the big, bad wolf. Children will eagerly continue reading to see what will happen when the wolf shows up and tries to blow the pigs' houses over!</p>	<p>Family. Cultural differences. Socio-political. Morality.</p>	<p>Translanguaged English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>A Day's Work</p>	<p>Eve Bunting; Ronald Himler (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>When Francisco, a young Mexican American boy, tries to help his grandfather find work, he discovers that even though the old man cannot speak English, he has something even more valuable to teach Francisco.</p>	<p>Relationships & Families (Family Members), Character/Virtues (Leadership & Responsibility)</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Hairs / Pelitos</p>	<p>Sandra Cisneros</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>A girl describes how each person in the family has hair that looks and acts different, Papa's like a broom, Kiki's like fur, and Mama's with the sweet smell of bread before it's baked.</p>	<p>Families, Self-love</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>

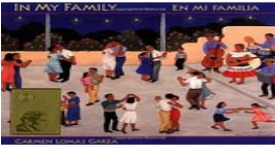
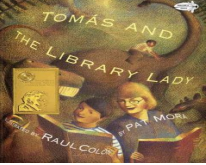
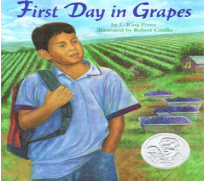
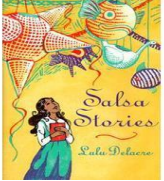
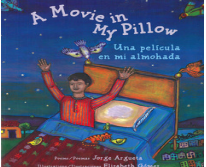
 <p>La Isla</p>	<p>Arthur Dorros; Elisa Kleven (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>Rosalba is going on an imaginary journey to the Caribbean island where her grandmother grew up. Through her abuela's eyes, Rosalba visits with relatives who still live on la isla and sees the beautiful terrain of the island, from the lush, tropical rain forest to the bustling old city. Along the way Rosalba and her grandmother visit a busy fruit market, then cool off with a swim in the turquoise sea filled with colorful fish. Their magical trip is brought to life by Elisa Kleven's shimmering collage artwork.</p>	<p>Family Life Countries, Continents, Regions</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish</p>
 <p>Papá and Me</p>	<p>Arthur Dorros; Rudy Gutierrez (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>In Papá and Me, a young boy and his papa may speak both Spanish and English, but the most important language they speak is the language of love.</p>	<p>Relationships & Families</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>
 <p>Gathering the Sun</p>	<p>Alma Flor Ada</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>A variety of poems relate the experience of working as Mexican farmworkers and the crops they harvest. From "Beet," "Peaches," and "Cherry Stand" to "Honor," "Pride," and "César Chávez," author Alma Flor Ada, translator Rosa Zubizarreta, and illustrator Simón Silva provide small glimpses of life of those workers and families</p>	<p>Migrant Farmworkers</p>	<p>Translanguaged in English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>I Love Saturdays y Domingos</p>	<p>Alma Flor Ada</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>The depth and the joy of two cultures are conveyed in both Spanish and English in this story of a girl and her two sets of grandparents.</p>	<p>Holidays, Traditions & Celebrations, Relationships & Families</p>	<p>Translanguaged in English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>In the Barrio</p>	<p>Alma Flor Ada</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>Colorful illustrations portray the pride a young Hispanic boy has in his neighborhood.</p>	<p>Neighborhood Life, Cultural Pride</p>	<p>Translanguaged . English with some words in Spanish</p>
 <p>Little Roja Riding Hood</p>	<p>Susan Middleton Elya; Susan Guevara (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>While Roja picks flowers on the way to her grandma's, a mean wolf sneaks away with her cape to surprise Abuelita. But Grandma's no fool and Roja's no ordinary chica. They send that hungry lobo packing with a caliente surprise! This sassy retelling of Little Red Riding Hood has accessible Spanish rhymes and fresh illustrations, with hip cultural details throughout.</p>	<p>Folktales, Multigenerational</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>

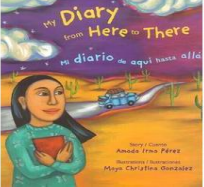
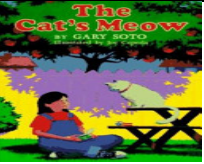


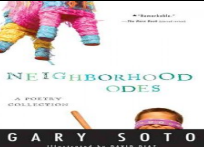
 <p>My Abuelita</p>	<p>Tony Johnston; Yuyi Morales (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-2</p>	<p>Abuelita's hair is the color of salt. Her face is as crinkled as a dried chile. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. She stuffs her carcacha —her jalopy —with all the things she needs: a plumed snake, a castle, a skeleton, and more. Her grandson knows he has the most amazing grandmother ever — with a very important job. What does Abuelita do? With her booming voice and wonderful props, Abuelita is a storyteller. Next to being a grandmother, that may be the most important job of all.</p>	<p>Family, Multigenerational</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish</p>
 <p>Amelia's Road</p>	<p>Linda Jacobs Altman, illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Tired of moving around so much, Amelia, the daughter of migrant farm workers, dreams of a stable home.</p>	<p>Immigration, Home, Farming, Poverty, Gratitude, Optimism/Enthusiasm, People In Motion, Respect/Citizenship, California, Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish</p>
 <p>My name is Celia/Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz</p>	<p>Monica Brown; Rafael Lopez (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>This bilingual book allows young readers to enter Celia Cruz's life, as she becomes a well-known singer in her homeland of Cuba, then moves to New York City and Miami where she and others create a new type of music called salsa.</p>	<p>Biographic. Immigration. Cuban culture. Diversity.</p>	<p>Translanguaged Bilingual book in English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>Going Home</p>	<p>Eve Bunting; David Diaz (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Although a Mexican family comes to the United States to work as farm laborers so that their children will have opportunities, the parents still consider Mexico their home.</p>	<p>Social Studies (Immigration/Emigration), Relationships & Families (Family Members)</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Carmen Learns English</p>	<p>Judy Cox; Angela Dominguez (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>The first day of school can be scary, especially when no one else speaks your language. Carmen, who speaks only Spanish, knows she must be brave. Her teacher's Spanish is "muy" terrible; but with a little encouragement from la Senora, Carmen teaches the class Spanish words and numbers, and she in turn learns English from her new friends.</p>	<p>ELL's experience. Teacher role in helping emergent bilinguals.</p>	<p>Translanguaged English with some Spanish.</p>

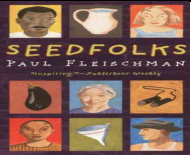
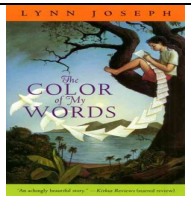
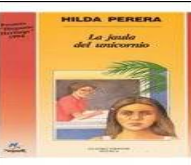
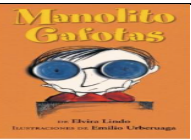

 <p>Drum, Chavi, Drum! ¡Toca, Chavi, Toca!</p>	<p>Mayra Dole; Tonel (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Even though nobody in her Cuban-American neighborhood thinks girls should play the drums, Chavi knows she was born to drum. And the whole world is her instrument: she drums on paint cans, sofa arms, even on her mother's cheeks. Her favorites, however, are the tumbadoras, the conga drums that liven the Caribbean music she and her neighbors love. So, when she's not picked to play on the school float for the festival on Miami's Calle Ocho, she decides to do something about it!</p>	<p>Gender roles, music, family</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>
 <p>Say Hola to Spanish</p>	<p>Susan Middleton Elya; Loretta Lopez (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>An entertaining introduction to the Spanish language features kid-friendly rhyming text and colorful illustrations that make words easier to remember, as well as a variety of activities.</p>	<p>Learning Spanish.</p>	<p>Translanguaged . English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>When This World Was New</p>	<p>D.H. Figueroa; Enrique O Sanchez (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>It was Danilito's first day in America. He and his parents have just made a long, exhausting move from the Caribbean to New York City. The ocean and the palm trees he is familiar with are now replaced by tall buildings and crowded streets. Danilito is scared. He has heard that some Americans are not friendly to foreigners. In addition, he does not speak any English. Danilito is a boy embracing his new home and finding a special bond with his family.</p>	<p>Family bond. The immigrant experience. Love. Cultural differences.</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Pepita Talks Twice</p>	<p>Ofelia Dumas Lachtman; Alex Pardo Delange (Illustrator)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Capturing the beauty and flavor of biculturalism, this story of a little girl at the crossroads of the English and Spanish-speaking worlds will delight children of all backgrounds who enjoy multicultural identities.</p>	<p>Benefits of being bilingual. Identity. Differences and heritage. Family.</p>	<p>Translanguaged . English with Spanish words.</p>
 <p>Viva Frida</p>	<p>Yuyi Morales; Tim O'Meara (photographer)</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Frida Kahlo, one of the world's most famous and unusual artists, is revered around the world. Distinguished author/illustrator Morales illuminates Kahlo's life and work in this elegant and fascinating picture-book biography.</p>	<p>Biography, Mexican and Mexican American culture Painting and Sculpture</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>

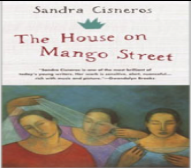
 <p>Maya's Blanket/ La Manta de Maya</p>	<p>Monica Brown; David Diaz (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-4</p>	<p>Little Maya has a special blanket that Grandma stitched with her own two hands. As Maya grows, her blanket becomes worn and frayed, so with Grandma's help, Maya makes it into a dress. Over time the dress is made into a skirt, a shawl, a scarf, a hair ribbon, and finally, a bookmark. Each item has special, magical, meaning for Maya; it animates her adventures, protects her, or helps her in some way. But when Maya loses her bookmark, she preserves her memories by creating a book about her adventures and love of these items. When Maya grows up, she shares her book Maya's Blanket/La manta de Maya with her own little daughter while snuggled under her own special blanket.</p>	<p>Family. Bond between child and grandparent. Recycling. Repurpose items. Environmental awareness.</p>	<p>Translanguaged Bilingual book in English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>The Upside Down Boy: El niño de cabeza</p>	<p>Juan Felipe Herrera; Elizabeth Gomez (illustrator)</p>	<p>K-5</p>	<p>The Upside Down Boy is award-winning poet Juan Felipe Herrera's engaging memoir of the year his migrant family settled down so that he could go to school for the first time. Juanito is bewildered by the new school, and he misses the warmth of country life. Everything he does feels upside down. He eats lunch when it's recess; he goes out to play when it's time for lunch; and his tongue feels like a rock when he tries to speak English. But a sensitive teacher and loving family help him to find his voice and make a place for himself in this new world through poetry, art, and music.</p>	<p>Family bond. Love. Cultural differences. Identity. Heritage.</p>	<p>Translanguaged English and Spanish.</p>
 <p>My Name Is Gabito/ Me llamo Gabito: The life of Gabriel García Márquez/ La vida de Gabriel García Márquez</p>	<p>Monica Brown</p>	<p>1-2</p>	<p>An introduction to the life and work of the Nobel prize-winning Colombian author describes his childhood in Aracataca, Colombia, and how the things that surrounded him inspired his imagination and his desire to become a storyteller.</p>	<p>Kids & Teens, Biographies, Literary</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>
 <p>Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina</p>	<p>Monica Brown</p>	<p>1-2</p>	<p>Marisol McDonald has flaming red hair and nut-brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are her favorite combination. She prefers peanut butter and jelly burritos in her lunch box. And don't even think of asking her to choose one or the other activity at recess? She'll just be a soccer playing pirate princess, thank you very much. To Marisol McDonald, these seemingly mismatched things make perfect sense together.</p>	<p>Kids & Teens, Fiction & Literature, People & Places</p>	<p>Bilingual</p>

 <p>La Mariposa Francisco Jiménez Illustrated by Simon Silva</p>	Francisco Jiménez; Simon Silva (illustrator)	1-2	When Francisco starts school, his classroom has a caterpillar in a jar, and he watches as the caterpillar turns into a butterfly. He is faced with being in a classroom where everyone speaks English while he speaks only Spanish.	Animals (Insects & Spiders), Relationships & Families (Family Members, School Life), Character/Virtues (Manners & Conduct, Self-Esteem & Respect)	English with some words in Spanish
 <p>Birthday in the Barrio/ Cumpleaños en el Barrio</p>	Mayra Dole, illustrated by Tonel	1-4	Lively, determined Chavi sets off on yet another Miami adventure. This time it's a fifteenth birthday party for her buddy Rosario's sister that sends her swooshing through Miami, recruiting children and grownups to help in the planning and cooking. Once again Chavi proves that she can bring an entire community together for a heartfelt special event.	Sharing & Giving, Identity/Self Esteem/Confidence, Responsibility, Overcoming Obstacles, Neighbors, Latino/Hispanic/Mexican Interest,	Bilingual
 <p>Al fin en casa</p>	Susan Middleton Elya; Felipe Davalos (illustrator)	1-5	Ana Patino is adjusting well to her new life in the United States, but her mother is having a difficult time because she doesn't speak English. When Ana's baby brother falls ill, Mama tries to get help, but no one can understand her. Now convinced of the need to learn the native language, Mama agrees to take English lessons. As her knowledge of the English language grows, so does her sense of confidence and belonging.	Identity /Self Esteem /Confidence, Responsibility, Immigration, Families, Education, Dreams & Aspirations, Cultural diversity, Conflict resolution, Empathy/Compassion, Persistence/Grit, Realistic	Spanish
 <p>The Storyteller's Candle/ La velita de los cuentos</p>	Lucia González; Lulu Delacre (illustrator)	1-6	The winter of 1929 feels especially cold to cousins Hildamar and Santiago—they arrived in New York City from sunny Puerto Rico only months before. Their island home feels very far away indeed, especially with Three Kings' Day rapidly approaching. But then a magical thing happened. A visitor appears in their class, a gifted storyteller and librarian by the name of Pura Belpré. She opens the children's eyes to the public library and its potential to be the living, breathing heart of the community. The library, after all, belongs to everyone—whether you speak Spanish, English, or both.	United States History, Siblings, Occupations, Neighbors, Mentors, Immigration, History, Friendship, Education, Cultural diversity, Empathy/Compassion, Optimism/Enthusiasm	Bilingual

 <p>In my Family: En mi Familia</p>	Carmen Lomas Garza	1-7	Following the best-selling Family Pictures, In My Family/En mi familia is Carmen Lomas Garza's continuing tribute to the family and community that shaped her childhood and her life. Lomas Garza's vibrant paintings and warm personal stories depict memories of growing up in the traditional Mexican-American community of her hometown of Kingsville, Texas.	Family bond. Love. Cultural differences. Identity. Heritage.	Translanguaged English and Spanish
 <p>Tomas and the Library Lady</p>	Pat Mora; Raul Colón (illustrator)	2-3	The son of migrant workers, Tomás loves the stories his grandfather tells, and then the library lady introduces him to the wonderful world of books and reading, in a story based on the life of MexicanAmerican authoreducator Tomás Rivera.	Sharing & Giving, Identity/Self Esteem/Confidence, Responsibility, Immigration, Holidays/Traditions, Friendship, Food, Families, Conflict resolution	English
 <p>First Day in Grapes</p>	L. King Perez; Robert Casilla (illustrator)	2-5	All year long Chico and his family move up and down the state of California picking fruits and vegetables. Every September they pick grapes and Chico starts at a new school again. Often other children pick on him — maybe because he is always new or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. Chico's first day in third grade turns out to be different. His teacher likes him right away, and she and his classmates are quick to recognize his excellent math skills. He may even get to go to the math fair! When the fourth-grade bullies confront Chico in the lunchroom, he responds wisely with strengths of his own.	Sharing & Giving, Identity/Self Esteem/Confidence, Overcoming Obstacles, Mentors, Immigration, Friendship, Farming, Families, Education, Discrimination, Conflict resolution, Bullying, Poverty, Respect/Citizenship	English with some words in Spanish.
 <p>Salsa Stories</p>	Lulu Delacre	2-5	Carmen Teresa's house rocks to the beat of Salsa music as grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and neighbors from all over Latin America arrive in their Silver Spring, Maryland home. Together they cook, gossip, play dominos, dance, and enjoy the warmth of this special New Year's Day celebration.	Kids & Teens, Fiction & Literature, People & Places	English with some words in Spanish
 <p>A Movie in My Pillow</p>	Jorge Argueta; Elizabeth Gómez (illustrator)	2-6	Young Jorgito has come to live in the Mission District of San Francisco, but he hasn't forgotten the unique beauty of El Salvador. Poet Jorge Argueta evokes the wonder of his childhood in rural El Salvador, a touching relationship with a caring father, and his confusion and delight in his new urban	Poetry, Immigration, Imagination, Home, History, Friendship, Fathers, Families, Dreams & Aspirations, Cultural diversity,	Bilingual

<p>A movie in my Pillow</p>			<p>home. We glimpse the richness of Jorgito's inner world and dreams—the movie in his pillow.</p>	<p>Childhood Experiences and Memories, Poverty, Courage, Identity</p>	
 <p>My Diary from Here to There/ Mi Diario de Aqui Hasta Alla</p>	<p>Amada Irma Pérez; Maya Christina Gonzalez (illustrator)</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>Amada's family is leaving Mexico to move to the Los Angeles! What if Amada can't learn English? Will she have any friends? The move is not easy, but in this story told in diary form, Amada learns that she is stronger than she thinks.</p>	<p>Siblings, Identity/Self Esteem, Overcoming Obstacles, Immigration, Friendship, Farming, Families, Dreams & Aspirations</p>	<p>Bilingual.</p>
 <p>Cat's Meow</p>	<p>Gary Soto</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>Eight-year-old Graciela, who is part Mexican, is amazed when her cat Pip starts speaking and learns Spanish.</p>	<p>Latino/a Experiences</p>	<p>English with words in Spanish</p>
 <p>My Name is Maria Isabel</p>	<p>Alma Flor Ada</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>Third-grader Maria Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the United States, wants badly to fit in at school; and the teacher's writing assignment "My Greatest Wish" gives her that opportunity.</p>	<p>Family & Social Issues, Self-Esteem & Respect</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish</p>
 <p>Esperanza Rising</p>	<p>Pam Muñoz Ryan</p>	<p>3-7</p>	<p>Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico — she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances — Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p>	<p>Great Depression, Farm and Ranch Life</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish</p>
 <p>Neighborhood Odes</p>	<p>Gary Soto</p>	<p>4-6</p>	<p>Twenty-one poems about growing up in an Hispanic neighborhood highlight the delights in such everyday items as sprinklers, the park, the library, and pomegranates.</p>	<p>Latino/a Experiences, Neighborhood</p>	<p>English with words in Spanish</p>

 <p>Seedfolks</p>	Paul Fleischman	4-6	One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.	African American, American, Asian Origin, Latino/a, Integrated/Multi-ethnic Settings, Friends, Character/Virtues	English
 <p>The Color of My Words</p>	Lynn Joseph	4-6	Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is a blossoming writer growing up in the Dominican Republic, a country where words are feared. Yet there is so much inspiration all around her -- watching her brother search for a future, learning to dance and to love, and finding out what it means to be part of a community -- that Ana Rosa must write it all down. As she struggles to find her own voice and a way to make it heard, Ana Rosa realizes the power of her words to transform the world around her -- and to transcend the most unthinkable of tragedies.	Relationships, Father/Daughter, Siblings, Power of Writing, Economy & Tourism, Social Unrest	English
 <p>La jaula del unicornio</p>	Hilda Perera	6-8	An immigrant from Central America finds hope and security as a housekeeper in the home of a prosperous family in Miami. Encouraged by her employer, the woman sends for the daughter she has left behind. Once they are together again, she discovers that she must vie with her employer for the affections of her little daughter.	Immigration, Feminism, Gender Expectations, Racism	Spanish
 <p>Manolito Gafotas</p>	Elvira Lindo	6-12	From the book: "Manolito Gafotas is one of the most famous characters in the "worldwide world" These kid from Carabanchel is unique, magnificent...Along with him, his brother the Imbecile, and his grandfather, Nicolas, and of course the whole gang, we discover, through his glasses, a vision of the world full of humor"	Relationships, poverty, friendships	Spanish
 <p>When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir</p>	Esmeralda Santiago	6-12	The story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where Santiago's childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs in the mango groves at night, the taste of the delectable sausage called <i>morcilla</i> , and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. As she enters school we see the clash of Puerto Rican and Yankee culture. When her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity.	Biography, Memoir, Identity	English with some words in Spanish Available in Spanish

 <p>The House on Mango Street</p>	<p>Sandra Cisneros</p>	<p>6-12</p>	<p>Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, <i>The House on Mango Street</i> tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong — not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become.</p>	<p>Adolescent Issues, Coming of Age, Mexican and Mexican American Women's History and Experience</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish</p>
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