

Relevant Literature on Latino/a Culture and Language

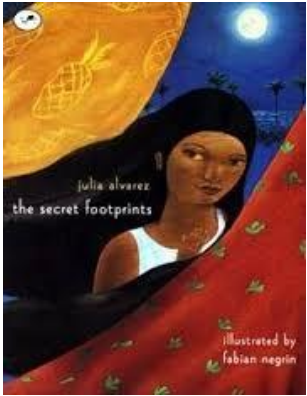
This list has been last updated in September 2019*

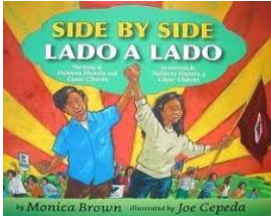

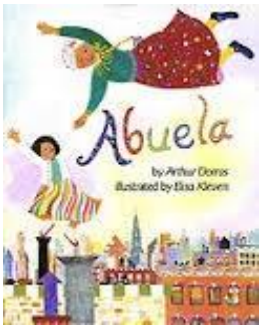
This list contains a variety of children's literature covering a wide array of themes. These books are relevant for Latino/a students in the elementary grades but also for any other student. These books were selected because the characters in the stories reflect the diversity of the Latino community. The majority of the books are bilingual in Spanish and English and can be used in bilingual classrooms during the literacy block or in ENL 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.

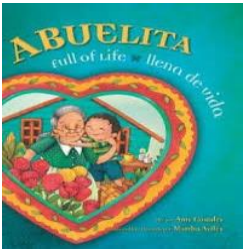
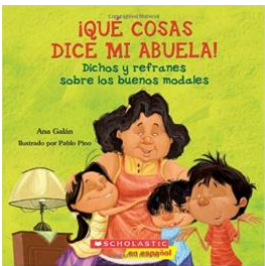

The books are organized by grade level and then by author for ease of navigation. The list also includes information on topics and multicultural issues, language(s) of the book, and a description taken from the webpages of Scholastic Book Wizard, La Casa Azul Bookstore, Lee & Low Books, among others.

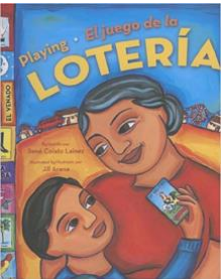
() We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this updated list: Laura Ascenzi-Moreno, Gladys Aponte, Andy Brown, Kathryn Carpenter, Ann Ebe, Cecilia Espinosa, Sarah Hesson, Leo Smith, Cristian Solorza, Heather Woodley, and Hulda Yau.*

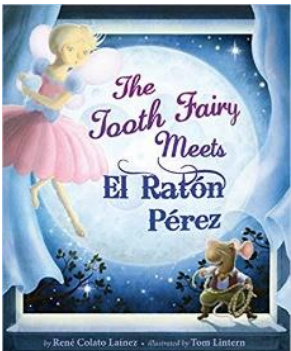
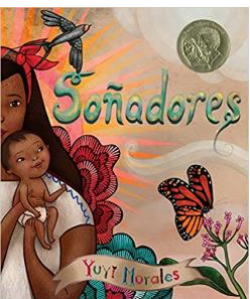
Grades: PreK-3

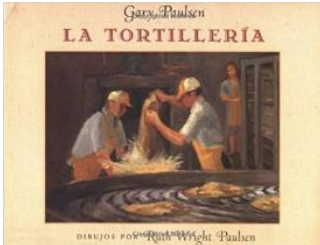
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	<p>Julia Alvarez; Fabian Negrin (illustrator)</p>	<p>The Secret Footprints (2002)</p> <p>The Dominican legend of the ciguapas, creatures who lived in underwater caves and whose feet were on backward so that humans couldn't 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.</p>	<p>Dominican culture, Sense of community, Family values</p>	<p>English</p>

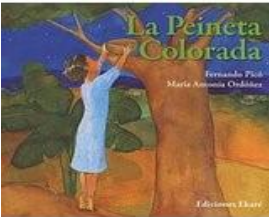
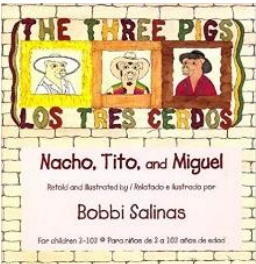
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Monica Brown; Joe Cepeda (illustrator)	Side by Side/Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez/La Historia de Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez. (2010) Every day, thousands of farmworkers harvested the food that 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.	Immigration Equal rights, Community, Stand up for each other	Translanguaged Bilingual book in English and Spanish.
	Eve Bunting; David Diaz (illustrator)	Smoky Night/ Noche de Humo (1999) 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.	Race relations, Family bonds, Confronting adversity	English. Also available in Spanish, Korean, Chinese.
	Arthur Dorros	Abuela (1997) 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.	Family Bond between child and Grandparent, Love, Immigration, New York City	Translanguaged English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish

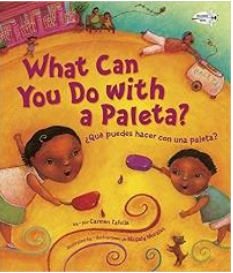
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Amy Costales; Martha Aviles (illustrator)	Abuelita Full of Life: Abuelita llena de vida (2007) Jose is not sure what to expect when his grandmother from Mexico moves in except that he will certainly have to change his ways. What he discovers is that he doesn't mind one bit. Abuelita is full of surprises! She is full of life!	Family love, Bond between child and grandmother, latinx Culture	Translanguaged English and Spanish versions.
	Ana Galán	Qué cosas dice mi abuela/ The Things My Grandmother Says (2013) A young boy narrates the events of a regular day, relating along the way his grandmother's advice on manners, which come in the form of traditional Spanish-language dichos (sayings).	Family, Love, Bond between child and grandmother, LatinxCulture, Traditional proverbs	Spanish and English versions of the book are available.
	Quiara Alegria Hudes; Shino Arihara (illustrator)	Welcome to my Neighborhood: A Barrio ABC and Bienvenidos a mi Barrio: Mi Mundo de la A a la Z (2010) 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.	A perfect way to get kids exploring and talking about what makes their own neighborhoods special	English. Also available in Spanish

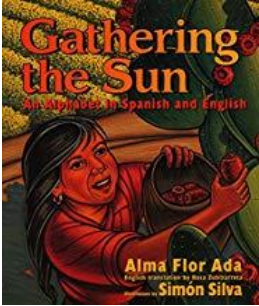
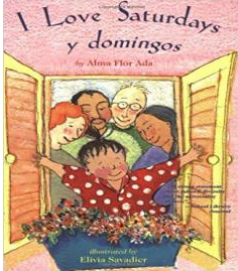
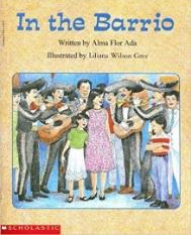
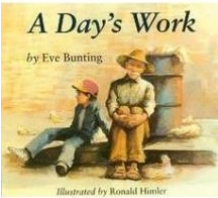
	René Colato Laínez	<p>Playing loteria / El juego de la lotería (2006)</p> <p>An English speaking boy is nervous about spending time with his Spanish-speaking grandmother because “I’m not used to speaking Spanish.” The two go to a fair and play the game loteria. Together they discover a world of language and realize that loved ones have special ways of understanding each other.</p>	Family, Love, Bond between child and grandmother, Feelings about language, Language learning	Spanish/English Bilingual with translanguaging
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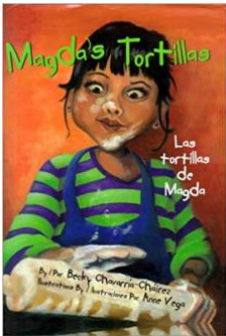
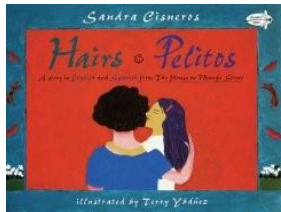

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	René Colato Laínez	<p>The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez (2010)</p> <p>When Miguelito hides his lost tooth under his pillow, both the English-speaking world's Tooth Fairy and her Spanish-speaking counterpart, El Ratón Pérez come to collect the tooth resulting in a bilingual argument. The conflict is resolved when the tooth collectors learn to work together, imparting a universal lesson about sharing and cooperation.</p>	Sharing and cooperation. Growing up in two cultures, Negotiating bicultural life, Celebrating Mexican-American heritage	Translanguaged English and Spanish.
	Yuyi Morales	<p>Soñadores / Dreamers (2018)</p> <p><i>Dreamers</i> is about making a home in a new place. Yuyi and her son's passage was not easy, and Yuyi spoke no English whatsoever at the time. But together, they found an unexpected, unbelievable place: the public library. There, book by book, they untangled the language of this strange new land, and learned to make their home within it.</p>	Autobiography, Language learning, Family, Dreaming, Power of libraries and books	English and Spanish versions

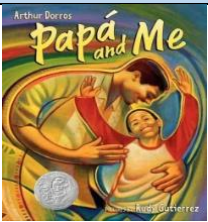
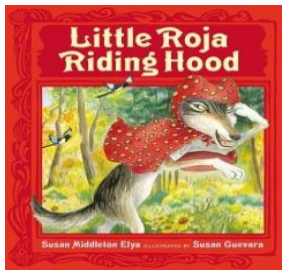
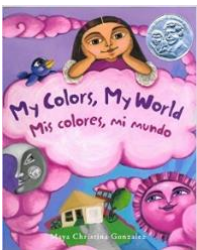
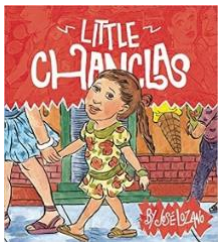
	Gary Paulsen	<p>La Tortillería/ The Tortilla Factory (1995)</p> <p>In clear and eloquent language, Gary Paulsen pays tribute to a cycle of life--from seed to plant to tortilla. Workers till the black soil, operate the clanking machinery of the factory, and drive the trucks that deliver the tortillas back into the hands that will plant the yellow seeds.</p>	Food, regional culture, art, and cycles	Spanish and English versions of the book are available.
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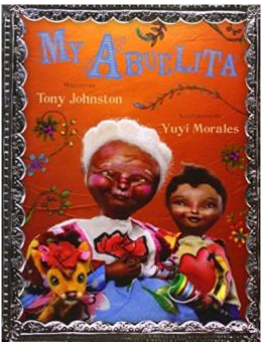
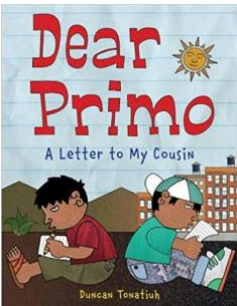
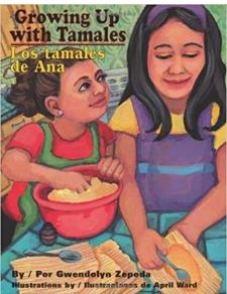
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Fernando Pico; Maria Antonia Ordonez (illustrator)	<p>The Red Comb/ La Peineta Colorada (1997)</p> <p>Based on historical fact and written with Puerto Rican idioms, this story of how a young girl and her grandmother help a runaway slave is an entertaining yet powerful tale, a discussion starter, and an educational tool.</p>	Slavery., Compassion, Cultural comparison, Puerto Rican culture	English. Also available in Spanish
	Bobbi Salinas	<p>The Three Pigs: Los tres credos, Nacho, Tito, and Miguel (1998)</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! "For ages 3 to 103"</p>	Family, Cultural differences, Sociopolitical, Morality	Translanguaged English and Spanish

	<p>Carmen Tafolla</p>	<p>What Can You Do with a Paleta / ¿Qué Puedes Hacer con una Paleta? (2014)</p> <p>This poetic bilingual book describing the joys of enjoying paletas.</p>	<p>Food, regional culture, and art.</p>	<p>Spanish/English Bilingual with translanguaging</p>
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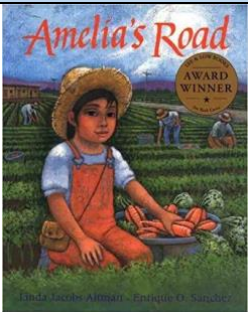
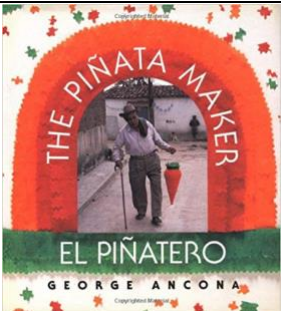
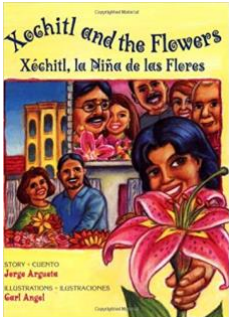
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Alma Flor Ada; Simón Silva (illustrator)	Gathering the Sun (2001) A variety of poems relate the experience of working as Mexican farmworkers and the crops they harvest. From "Beet," "Peaches," and "Cherry Stand" to "Honor," "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	Migrant Farmworkers, poetry	Translanguaged in English and Spanish.
	Alma Flor Ada	I Love Saturdays y Domingos (2004) 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.	Holidays, Traditions & Celebrations, Relationships & Families	Translanguaged in English and Spanish.
	Alma Flor Ada	In the Barrio (2004) Colorful illustrations portray the pride a young Hispanic boy has in his neighborhood.	Neighborhood Life, Cultural Pride	Translanguaged English with some words in Spanish
	Eve Bunting; Ronald Himler (illustrator)	A Day's Work (1997) 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.	Relationships & Families (Family Members), Character/Virtues (Leadership & Responsibility)	English with translanguaging

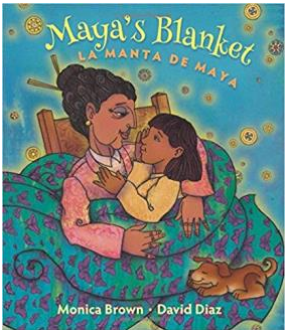
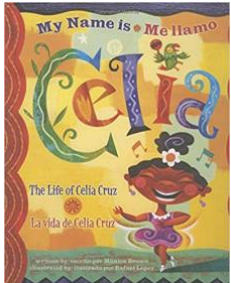
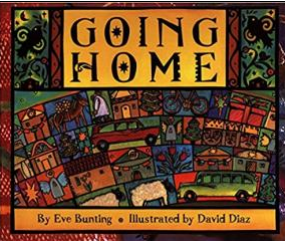
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Becky Chavarría-Cháirez	<p>Magda's Tortillas: Las tortillas de Magda (2000)</p> <p>Even at the advanced age of seven, Magda Madrigal can remember back to when she was a little girl and would watch her abuela making tortillas. Having studied techniques of a master, she now feels confident of her own ability to turn out beautiful, delicious, and round tortillas. But somehow the rolling pin and the kitchen comal still hold a few surprises for the perplexed Magda and for her delighted family.</p>	Cooking, food, traditions	Bilingual
	Sandra Cisneros	<p>Hairs / Pelitos (1997)</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 its baked.</p>	Families, Self-love	Bilingual
	Arthur Dorros; Elisa Kleven (illustrator)	<p>La Isla (1999)</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>	Family Life Countries, Continents, Regions	English with translanguaging Spanish version

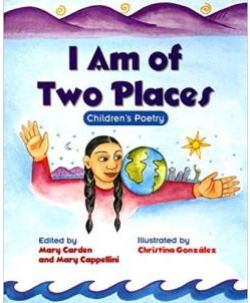
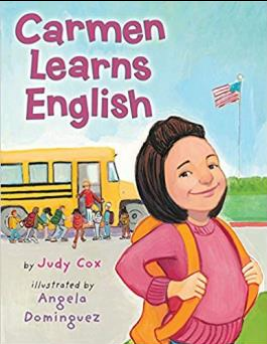
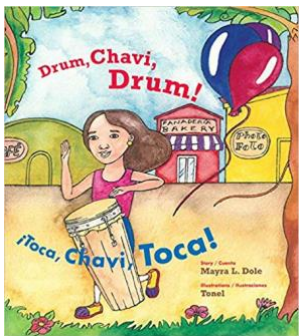
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Arthur Dorros; Rudy Gutierrez (illustrator)	Papá and Me (2014) In Papá and Me, a young boy and his papa may speak both Spanish and English, but the most important language they speak is the language of love.	Relationships & Families	English with translanguaging
	Susan Middleton Elya; Susan Guevara (illustrator)	Little Roja Riding Hood (2014) 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.	Folktale, Multigenerational	English with translanguaging
	Maya Gonzalez	My Colors, My World / Mis colores, mi mundo (2013) Maya, who lives in the dusty desert, opens her eyes wide to find the colors in her world, from Papi's black hair and Mami's orange and purple flowers to Maya's red swing set and the fiery pink sunset.	Latina female character reflected in the story and the world, Poetry.	Bilingual
	José Lozano	Little Chancas (2015) A bilingual tale about Little Lilly Lujan who loves her chancas (flip-flops) going slippety-slappety and flippity-flop. In fact, Lilly refuses any footwear except her favorite pair of flip-flops. When they break they are eventually replaced by soccer shoes.	Favorite item of clothing, family, Latino culture	Bilingual book with Spanish/English translanguaging

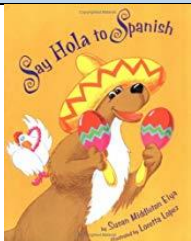
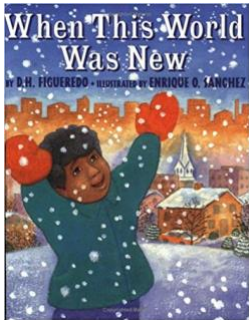
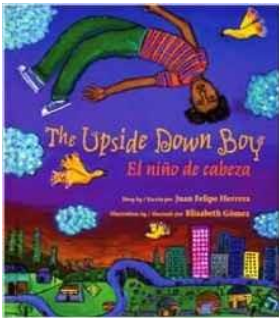
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Tony Johnston; Yuyi Morales (illustrator)	My Abuelita (2009) Abuelita's hair is the color of salt. Her face is as crinkled as a dried chile. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. She stuffs her carcacha —her jalopy —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.	Family, Multigenerational	English with translanguaging
	Duncan Tonatiuh	Dear Primo: A letter to my cousin (2010) The story of two cousins, one in America and one in Mexico, and how their daily lives are different yet similar. Charlie takes the subway to school; Carlitos rides his bike. Charlie plays in fallen leaves; Carlitos plays among the local cacti. <i>Dear Primo</i> covers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of two very different childhoods, while also emphasizing how alike Charlie and Carlitos are at heart.	Rural life in Mexico, Mixtec tradition, family, comparing cultures and traditions	English with translanguaging
	Gwendolyn Zepeda	Growing Up With Tamales / Los tamales de Ana (2008) Ana, six, impatiently observes that while she gets to mix the cornmeal to make Christmas tamales, "My sister Lidia is eight, so she gets to spread the dough on the corn husk leaves." She goes on to explain all of the things she will be able to do as she gets older.	Holidays, Traditions, food & Celebrations, Relationships & Families	Bilingual Book

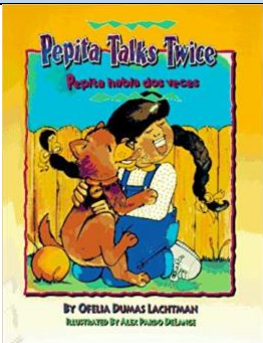
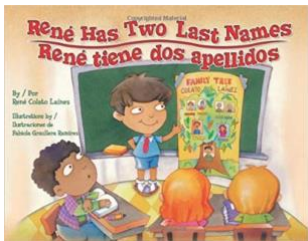
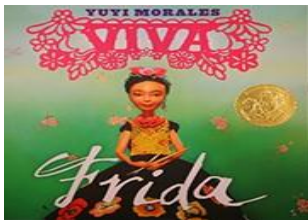
Grades: K-5

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Linda Jacobs Altman, illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez	Amelia's Road / El Camino de Amelia (1995) Tired of moving around so much, Amelia, the daughter of migrant farm workers, dreams of a stable home.	Immigration, Home, Farming, Poverty, Gratitude, Optimism/Enthusiasm, Respect/Citizenship, California, Realistic Fiction	English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish
	George Ancona	The Piñata Maker / El Piñatero (1994) Told in both English and Spanish by award-winning author-photographer George Ancona, <i>The Piñata Maker/El piñatero</i> documents this traditional Latin American artform and includes a note on how to make piñatas at home.	Mexican art, village life, tradition, celebrations	Bilingual
	Jorge Argueta	Xochitl and the Flowers/Xochitl, la Nina de las Flores (2008) Though Xochitl and her family have put down new roots in the United States, Xochitl still misses the garden and flower shop they left behind in El Salvador. But when Xochitl's family decides to start a nursery and sell their flowers on the street, the sense of community they find makes them feel connected to their neighbors, and their decision to start a nursery and flower shop in their backyard helps the Flores family finally feels at home in its adopted country.	immigration, building community, family, traditions	Bilingual with translanguaging

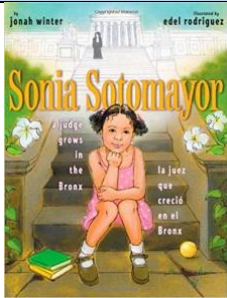
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Monica Brown; David Diaz (illustrator)	Maya's Blanket/ La Manta de Maya (2015) Little Maya has a special blanket that Grandma stitched with her own two hands. As Maya grows, her blanket becomes worn and frayed, so with Grandma's 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.	Family, Bond between child and grandparent, Recycling, Environmental awareness.	Translanguaged Bilingual book in English and Spanish.
	Monica Brown; Rafael Lopez (illustrator)	My name is Celia/Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz (2004) 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.	Biographies, Immigration, Cuban culture, Diversity	Translanguaged Bilingual book in English and Spanish.
	Eve Bunting; David Diaz (illustrator)	Going Home (1998) 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.	Social Studies (Immigration/ Emigration), Relationships & Families.	English

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Mary Carden and Mary Cappellini	I Am of Two Places/ Soy de dos lugares (1997) Poems written by Latino students about being from two places and living between worlds.	Poetry, Biculturalism, Bilingualism, Biography	Spanish and English versions
	Judy Cox; Angela Dominguez (illustrator)	Carmen Learns English (2010) 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.	EBL's experience, Teacher role in helping emergent bilinguals	Translanguaged English with some Spanish.
	Mayra Dole; Tonel (illustrator)	Drum, Chavi, Drum!: ¡Toca, Chavi, Toca! (2013) 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!	Gender roles, music, family	Bilingual

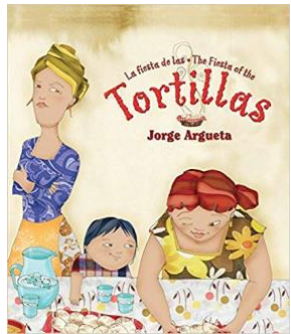
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Susan Middleton Elya; Loretta Lopez (illustrator)	Say Hola to Spanish (1998) An entertaining introduction to the Spanish language features kid-friendly rhyming text and colorful illustrations that make words easier to remember, as well as a variety of activities.	Learning Spanish	Translanguaged English and Spanish.
	D.H. Figueroa; Enrique O Sanchez (illustrator)	When This World Was New (1999) 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.	Family bond, The immigrant experience, Love, Cultural differences	English
	Juan Felipe Herrera; Elizabeth Gomez (illustrator)	The Upside Down Boy: El niño de cabeza (2006) 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.	Family bond, Love, Cultural differences, Identity, Heritage	Translanguaged English and Spanish.

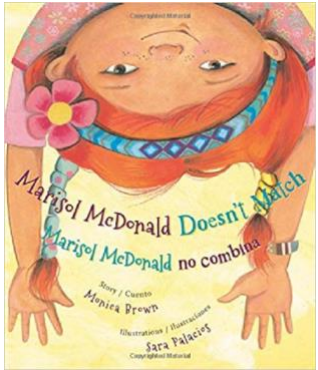
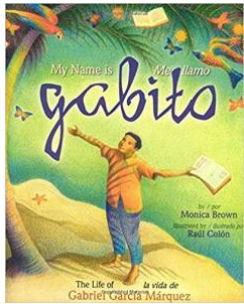
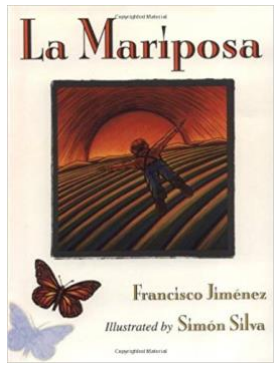
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Ofelia Dumas Lachtman; Alex Pardo Delange (Illustrator)	Pepita Talks Twice (1995) Capturing the beauty and flavor of biculturalism, this story of a little girl at the crossroads of the English and Spanish-speaking worlds will delight children of all backgrounds who enjoy multicultural identities.	Benefits of being bilingual, Identity, Differences and heritage, Family	Bilingual
	René Colato Laínez	René Has Two Last Names/ René tiene dos apellidos (2009) René, a new student from El Salvador, doesn't understand why his second last name is missing from his desk's name label. Adding it results in a name so long that his classmates make fun of it by comparing it to that of a dinosaur. When his teacher assigns the students the project of creating a family tree, René is determined to show his classmates and teacher why he has two last names and the importance of his <i>dos apellidos</i> .	Family, The importance of names, Heritage	Bilingual
	Yuyi Morales; Tim O'Meara (photographer)	Viva Frida (2014) 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.	Biography, Mexican and Mexican American culture Painting and Sculpture	Bilingual

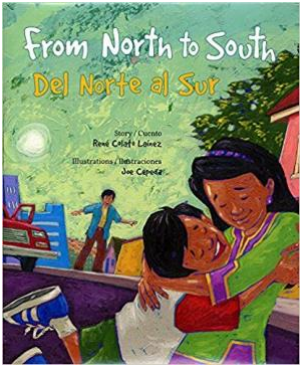
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Amada Irma Pérez	My Very Own Room: Mi propio cuartito (2008) The young Mexican American girl at the center of this charming book loves her family — five younger brothers, her two parents, and several visiting relatives — but in such a crowded house, she can never seem to find a moment alone. The family pulls together to give a young girl her own corner of the world.	Collective problem solving, Family love, Dreaming	Bilingual
	Duncan Tonatiuh	Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote (2013) In this allegorical picture book, a young rabbit named Pancho eagerly awaits his papa's return. Papa Rabbit traveled north two years ago to find work in the great carrot and lettuce fields to earn money for his family. When Papa does not return, Pancho sets out to find him. Along the way he meets a coyote, who offers to help Pancho in exchange for some of Papa's food. Tonatiuh brings to light the hardship and struggles faced by thousands of families who seek to make better lives for themselves and their children by illegally crossing the border.	Immigration, Family, Family separation, Allegory, Folklore	Translanguaged English with some Spanish
	Jonah Winter	Frida (2002) 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.	Art, Overcoming difficulties, Dreaming	English and Spanish editions

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Jonah Winter	<p>Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx/ La juez que creció en el Bronx (2009)</p> <p>The inspiring story of Sonia Sotomayor, who rose up from a childhood of poverty and prejudice to become the first Latino to be nominated to the US Supreme Court.</p>	Female Latina role models, Rags-to-riches, Hard work, Perseverance, government	Bilingual

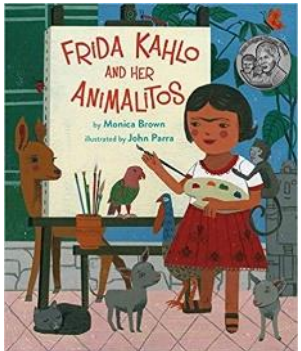
Grades: 1-2

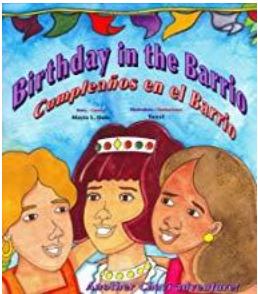


Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Jorge Argueta	<p>La fiesta de las tortillas/ The fiesta of the tortillas (2016)</p> <p>The author remembers the day on which the Spirit of the Corn visited the restaurant that his family owned in El Salvador. The narration is full of suspense and is impregnated with the delicious scents that surrounded the kitchen and that remain intact in the memory and the heart of the author from his childhood.</p>	Traditions & Food Relationships & Families	Bilingual

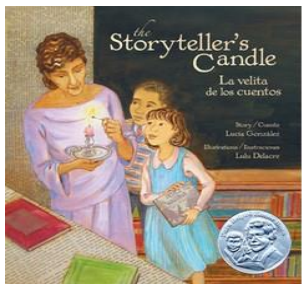

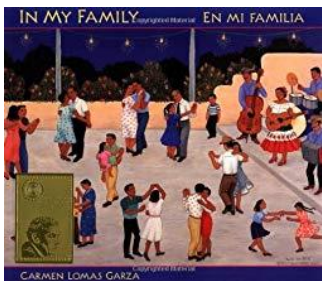
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Monica Brown	<p>Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina (2011)</p> <p>Marisol McDonald has flaming red hair and nut-brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are her favorite combination. She prefers peanut butter 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>	Kids & Teens, Fiction & Literature, People & Places	Bilingual
	Monica Brown	<p>My Name Is Gabito/ Me llamo Gabito: The life of Gabriel García Márquez/ La vida de Gabriel García Márquez (2007)</p> <p>An introduction to the life and work of the Nobel prizewinning 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>	Kids & Teens, Biographies, Literary	Bilingual
	Francisco Jiménez; Simón Silva (illustrator)	<p>La Mariposa (2000)</p> <p>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.</p>	Animals (Insects & Spiders), Relationships & Families (Family Members, School Life), Character/Virtues (Manners & Conduct, Self-Esteem & Respect)	Translanguaged English and Spanish.

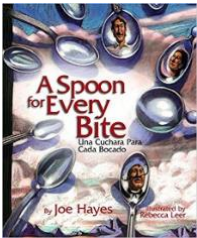
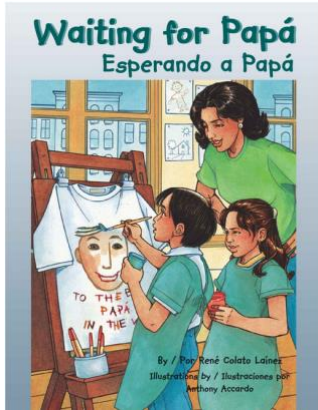
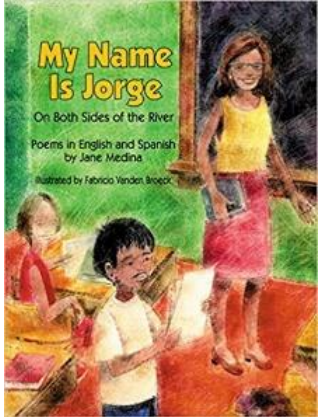
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	René Colato Laínez	<p>From North to South/ Del Norte al Sur (2013)</p> <p>Near the border, the cars began to move very slowly. Papá, go fast. I want to see Mamá, I said. José loves helping Mamá in the garden outside their home in California. But when Mamá is sent back to Mexico for not having proper papers, José and his Papá face an uncertain future. What will it be like to visit Mamá in Tijuana? When will Mamá be able to come home? René Colato Laínez tackles the difficult and timely subject of family separation with exquisite tenderness.</p>	Family separation, immigration	Bilingual

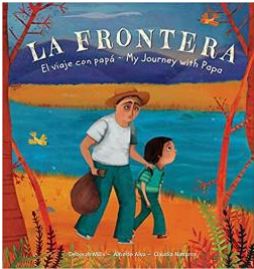
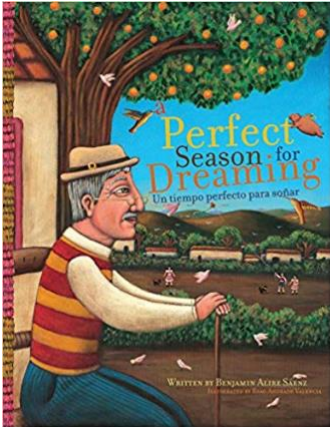
Grades: 1-7

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Monica Brown	<p>Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos/ Frida Kahlo Y Sus Animalitos (2021)</p> <p>This book presents the life of iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo through the kid-friendly lens of her animal friends. Kahlo's life as a young girl at La Casa Azul was marked by the support of her family, illness, and her "animalitos," or the many pets and creatures that she loved. Each spread introduces a new animal, from Bonito the parrot to her spider monkeys Fulang Chang and Caimito de Guayabal. The text often makes comparisons between the featured critters and the independent, free-spirited girl and budding artist. Throughout, Brown makes references to Kahlo's love of and inspiration by her Aztec culture, which was often seen in her art and evidenced by her pets' names.</p>	Art, Animals, Aztec culture, Mexican culture, Family, overcoming difficulty	English and Spanish versions

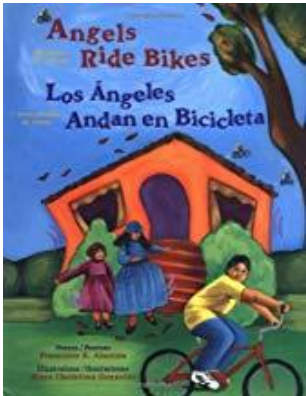
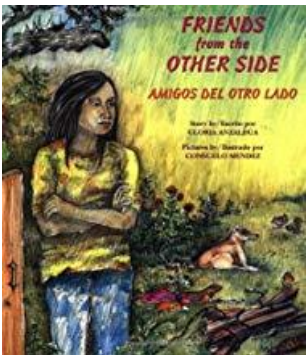
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Mayra Dole, illustrated by Tonel	Birthday in the Barrio/ Cumpleaños en el Barrio (2004) Lively, determined Chavi sets off on yet another Miami adventure. This time it's a fifteenth birthday party for her buddy Rosario's sister 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
	Susan Middleton Elya; Felipe Davalos (illustrator)	Al fin en casa / Home at Last (2011) 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, Persistence	Spanish Also available in English
	Xavier Garza	Charro Claus and the Tejas Kid (2008) Vincent, a young Texan, is spending Christmas Eve on his uncle's farm near the Mexican border. When Santa shows up and asks Tío Pancho to help him out, he uses magic dust to transform an old mariachi outfit into a gold-and-silver sequined marvel and his old burros into <i>lucha libre</i> -masked Flying Burritos. Vincent tags along, helping Charro Claus deliver presents along the border.	Tex/ Mex culture, Traditions, Holidays	Bilingual with translanguaging in the English.

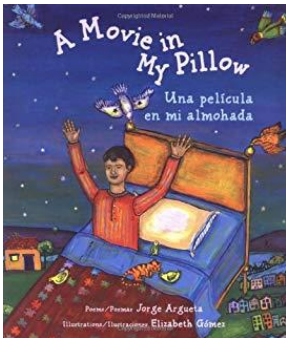
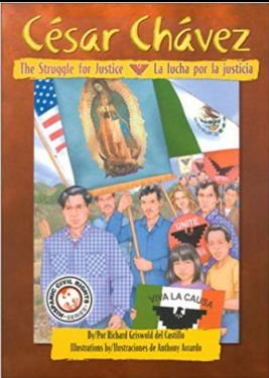

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Lucia González; Lulu Delacre (illustrator)	<p>The Storyteller's Candle/ La velita de los cuentos (2012)</p> <p>The winter of 1929 feels especially cold to cousins Hildamar and Santiago—they arrived in New York City from sunny 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.</p>	United States History, Siblings, Occupations, Neighbors, Mentors, Immigration, History, Friendship, Education, Cultural diversity, Empathy/ Compassion, Optimism/ Enthusiasm	Bilingual
	Carmen Lomas Garza	<p>Family Pictures/ Cuadros de Familia (2005)</p> <p><i>Family Pictures</i> is the story of Carmen Lomas Garza's girlhood: celebrating birthdays, making tamales, finding a hammerhead shark on the beach, picking cactus, going to a fair in Mexico, and confiding to her sister her dreams of becoming an artist. These day-to-day experiences are told through fourteen vignettes of art and a descriptive narrative, each focusing on a different aspect of traditional Mexican American culture.</p>	Family bond. Love. Cultural differences. Identity. Heritage.	Bilingual
	Carmen Lomas Garza	<p>In my Family: En mi Familia (2000)</p> <p>Following the best-selling <i>Family Pictures</i>, <i>In My Family/En mi familia</i> 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.</p>	Family bond. Love. Cultural differences. Identity. Heritage.	Bilingual

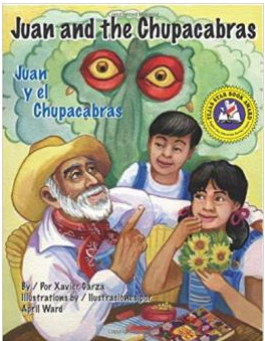
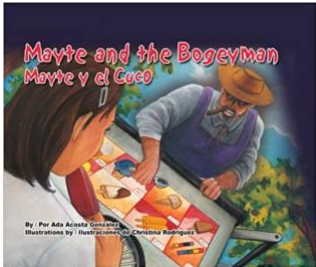
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Joe Hayes	<p>A Spoon for Every Bite / Cada Bocado con Nueva Cuchara (2005)</p> <p>In this lovely New Mexico folktale, a rich man tries to prove his wealth to his poor neighbors by using a new spoon for every bite. In the process, he's served a pretty dish of come-uppance.</p>	Tradicional tale, Latino culture, Story-telling	Bilingual
	René Colato Laínez	<p>Waiting for Papá/ Esperando a Papá (2004)</p> <p>When the family's home in El Salvador burned down, five-year-old Beto and his mother moved to the United States. Unfortunately, his father could not get a visa and remained behind. Now, three years later, the boy still misses Papá terribly, and although his mother works with an immigration lawyer, she makes no headway. A class project and a resultant radio broadcast finally open the door to the long-awaited reunion, and Beto's classmates help him raise money to buy his father a very special gift.</p>	Immigration, Hard work, Tenacity, Hope, family, Family separation	Bilingual
	Jane Medina	<p>My Name is Jorge on Both Sides of the River (1999)</p> <p>Jorge is trying to learn the ways of his new country. He wants to fit in at school, but he doesn't want to forget his homeland, Mexico. His family is still doing things like they're in the old country, but Jorge wants to find out everything he can about his new country--on the other side of the river. Learning a new language, getting a library card, taking tests, and making friends are challenges for Jorge. Just when Jorge has found a friend in Tim, his life changes once again. Told from the point of view of Jorge, Jane Medina's moving poems vividly depict one boy's struggle to make a new life in a new country.</p>	Poetry Importance of names, Inequality, Importance of reading, Family	Bilingual

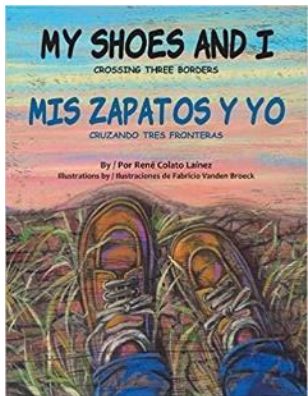
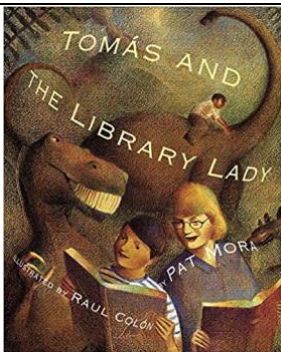
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Deborah Mills, Alfredo Alva, Claudia Navarro	<p>La Frontera / The Border: El viaje con papá/ My Journey With Papa (2018)</p> <p>Join a young boy and his father on a daring journey from Mexico to Texas to find a new life. They'll need all the resilience and courage they can muster to safely cross the border and to make a home for themselves in a new land.</p>	Culture, migration, community, Poverty, Family	Bilingual
	Benjamin Alire Sáenz	<p>A Perfect Season for Dreaming: Un Tiempo Perfecto Para Soñar (2008)</p> <p>Ninety-two-year-old Octavio Rivera is a beautiful dreamer. And lately he has been visited by some very interesting dreams—dreams about piñatas that spill their treasures before him, revealing kissing turtles, winged pigs, hitchhiking armadillos and many more fantastic things! Octavio doesn't tell anyone about his dreams except his young granddaughter Regina because she alone understands beautiful and fantastic dreams. On the ninth afternoon Octavio prepares for his siesta hoping to be blessed with one last lovely dream. That afternoon he dreams of a sky full of sweet and perfect hummingbirds calling his name over and over again.</p>	Dreams, Magical Realism, Counting book, Relationship between the very old and very young	Bilingual

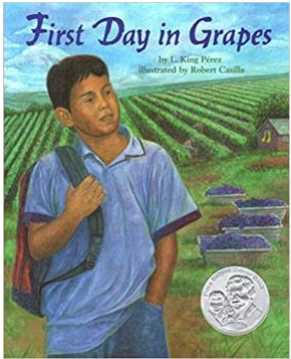
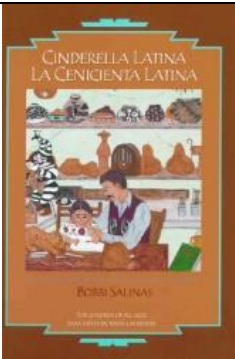
Grades: 2-5

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Francisco X. Alarcón	Angels Ride Bikes and Other Fall Poems: Los Angeles Andan en Bici: Y Otros Poemas de Otoño (2005) In this bilingual poetry book, Francisco X. Alarcón invites young readers to experience fall in Los Angeles — the City of the Angels — where dreams can come true. In the poet's whimsical imagination, mariachis play like angels, angels ride bikes, and the earth dances the <i>cha-cha-cha</i> . Alarcón celebrates the simple joys and trials of everyday life: a visit to the outdoor market, the arrival of the ice cream vendor, the first day of school. He honors his family and pays tribute to his mother, who taught him that with hard work and education he could realize his dreams.	Poetry, Latino neighborhood, family, Hard work	Bilingual
	Gloria Anzaldúa	Friends from the Other Side: Amigos del otro lado (1993) Friends from the Other Side tells the heart- warming story of two children living on opposite sides of the southern US border who become unlikely friends out of curiosity and circumstance. As the two children become familiar with each other, the reader also becomes familiar with cultural differences within the Latino culture itself and with the daily hardships faced by families that live near the border.	Friendship, Cultural pride, Bullying, Border issues, Immigration	Bilingual with translanguaging in the English

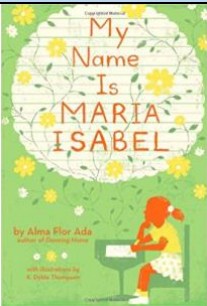
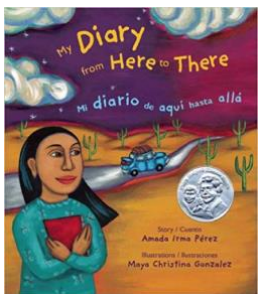
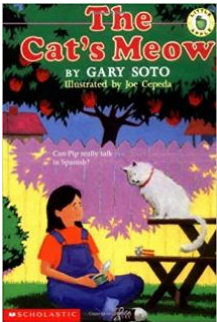
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Jorge Argueta; Elizabeth Gómez (illustrator)	A Movie in my Pillow/ Una película en mi almohada (2007) Young Jorgito has come to live in the Mission District of San Francisco, but he hasn't forgotten the unique beauty of El 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
	Richard Griswold del Castillo	César Chávez: The Struggle for Justice/ La Lucha por la Justicia (2002) A simple biography of the man who worked to win fairer treatment of the migrant farm workers in California in the 1960s and to establish the United Farm Workers union.	Justice, Migrant farm workers, Biography	Bilingual
	Lulu Delacre	Salsa Stories (2012) 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

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
 <p>Juan and the Chupacabras Juan y el Chupacabras</p>	Xavier Garza	<p>Juan and the Chupacabras/ Juan y el Chupacabras (2006)</p> <p>Cousins Luz and Juan can't tell if the wild stories their grandfather tells them of his own life-and-death battles with the infamous <i>Chupacabras</i> are fact or fiction. So they arm themselves with a trusty slingshot and a bag of marbles (that have been soaked in holy water for good measure) and venture out into the night-shadowed cornfields in search of the legendary bloodsucking stealer of children.</p>	Latino folklore, Traditional tales, Family, religion, Rural life.	Bilingual
 <p>Mayte and the Bogeyman Mayte y el Cuco</p>	Ada Gonzalez	<p>Mayte and the Bogeyman/ Mayte y el cuco (2006)</p> <p>Mayte enjoys interacting with the colorful street vendors. All are friendly, kind, and interesting in various ways, except for the sour and bad-tempered ice-cream man. Don Aparicio constantly mutters about naughty children who need to be taught a lesson. Mayte comes to believe that he is the Bogeyman (<i>el Cuco</i>) who kidnaps bad children and eats them or sells them at market. When she and her friend Pepito see the man walking down the street with a squirming bag slung over his shoulder, they assume the worst and devise a reckless plan to save the captive child in the bag.</p>	Latino culture, Judging others, Tradition, Folklore	Bilingual

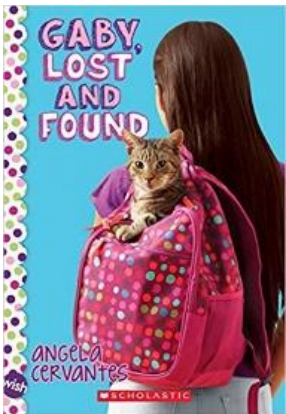

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	René Colato Laínez	<p>My Shoes and I / Mis Zapatos y Yo (2019)</p> <p>Wearing the new shoes his mother has sent, a young boy and his father embark on a difficult journey across three countries to reach her in the United States. The story is based on the author's own experience of leaving El Salvador and going across Guatemala and Mexico with his father in 1985. Wearing his new shoes, young René leaves his home and friends on a windy day. In Guatemala he is chased by hungry dogs, and in Mexico City Papá loses his wallet. They take buses, walk for miles, sleep in a dilapidated trailer, climb mountains, and finally swim across a river. Meanwhile, his shoes get dusty, soaked, muddy, and develop round, horrible holes in the soles. Finally, when they come out of the river, Mamá is there waiting for them and his shoes are with him. Together, they cross the border.</p>	Childhood Experiences and Memories, Poverty, Courage, Identity, autobiography, Immigration, Family separation	Bilingual
	Pat Mora; Raul Colón (illustrator)	<p>Tomas and the Library Lady (1997)</p> <p>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.</p>	Sharing & Giving, Identity/Self Esteem/Confidence, Responsibility, Immigration, Holidays/Traditions, Friendship, Food, Families, Conflict resolution	English

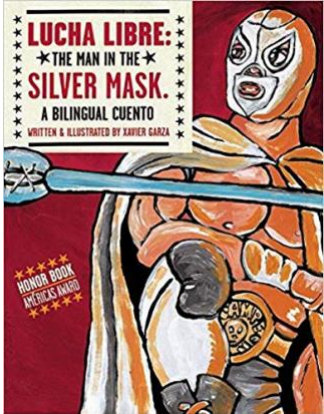
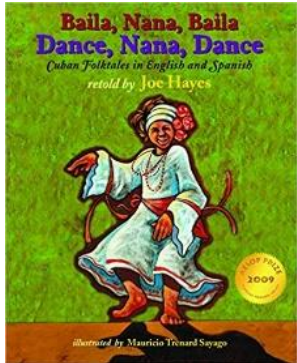
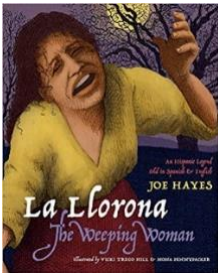
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	L. King Perez; Robert Casilla (illustrator)	<p>First Day in Grapes (2014)</p> <p>All year long Chico and his family move up and down the state of California picking fruits and vegetables. Every September they pick grapes and 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	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.
	Bobbi Salinas	<p>Cinderella Latina: La Cenicienta Latina (2003)</p> <p>In a retelling of the classic tale, with the help of her fairy godmother, a beautiful young Hispanic woman mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters attends a fiesta where she meets the man whom she marries. She also becomes a medical doctor and opens a woman's clinic.</p>	Latino twist to the traditional Cinderella story, family, feminism, Perseverance	Bilingual

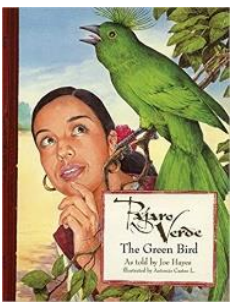

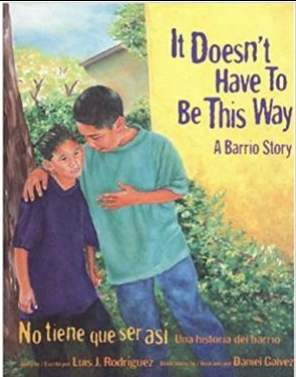
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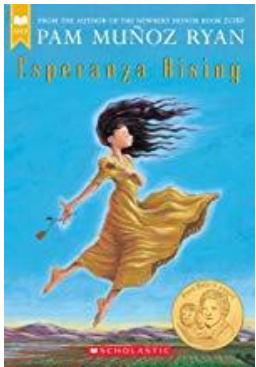
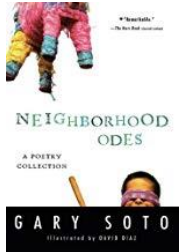
Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Alma Flor Ada	My Name is Maria Isabel/ Me Llamo María Isabel (1996) Third-grader Maria Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the United States, wants badly to fit in at school; and the teacher's writing assignment "My Greatest Wish" gives her that opportunity.	Family & Social Issues, Self-Esteem & Respect	English with some words in Spanish Also available in Spanish
	Amada Irma Perez; Maya Christina Gonzalez (illustrator)	My Diary from Here to There/ Mi Diario de Aqui Hasta Alla (2009) 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.	Siblings, Identity/Self Esteem, Overcoming Obstacles, Immigration, Friendship, Farming, Families, Dreams & Aspirations	Bilingual.
	Gary Soto	The Cat's Meow / El Maullido de la Gata (1996) Eight-year-old Graciela, who is part Mexican, is amazed when her cat Pip starts speaking and learns Spanish.	Latino/a Experiences, bilingualism, Language learning.	English with words in Spanish

Grades: 4-6

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Angela Cervantes	<p>Gaby Lost and Found/ Gaby, Perdida y Encontrada (2015)</p> <p>When Gaby Ramirez Howard starts volunteering at the local animal shelter, she takes special pride in writing adoption advertisements. Her flyers help the cats and dogs there find their forever homes: places where they'll be loved and cared for, no matter what. Gaby is in need of a forever home herself. Her mother has recently been deported to Honduras and Gaby doesn't know where to turn. Meanwhile, Gaby's favorite shelter cat, Feather, needs a new place to live. Gaby would love to adopt her-- but if Gaby doesn't have a place that feels like home to her, how can she help Feather?</p>	Immigration, Family separation, Responsibility	English and Spanish editions
	Nadia Fink, Pitu Saá	<p>Various titles from the Antiprincesses and Antiheroes Series (2015-on)</p> <p>The Antiprincesses and Antiheroes series celebrate that there have always been free and independent women and great Latin American artists. They come to recover popular and collective culture, rescue forgotten heroines from the wars of independence, and propose new masculinities.</p>	Independent Latina women, Strong heroes, Artists, history, Biographies	Spanish

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Xavier Garza	<p>Lucha libre: The Man in the Silver Mask (2007)</p> <p>Young Carlitos attends his first lucha libre match in Mexico City. At ringside, Carlitos sees the famous luchador—the Man in the Silver Mask, a man whose eyes look terribly familiar. The masked wrestler even smiles at Carlitos! He is mesmerized as the Man in the Silver Mask is pitted against the terrible forces of evil—los rudos, the bad guys of lucha libre. They make the audience boo and hiss! In the end, though, the Man in the Silver Mask triumphs and, in the process, gains a lifelong fan.</p>	Mexican traditions, Family	Bilingual with translanguaging in the English.
	Joe Hayes	<p>Baila, Nana, Baila: Dance, Nana, Dance: Cuban Folktales in English and Spanish (2010)</p> <p>Joe Hayes received the Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award for <i>Dance, Nana, Dance</i>. In his acceptance speech, Joe talked about his hopes for his book: "Someone has said that enemies are just people whose stories we don't know. I see a lot of truth in that. The more other people's stories are hidden from us, the easier it is for us to view them as enemies. But when we begin to learn their stories we recognize all we share in common with them and we delight in how the unique beauty of their traditions enriches our own lives."</p>	Cuban Folktales, Family	Bilingual
	Joe Hayes	<p>La Llorona/ The Weeping Woman (2006)</p> <p><i>La Llorona / The Weeping Woman</i> is the ghost story to end all ghost stories, capturing the minds of both kids and adults in the U.S. and Mexico. Master storyteller Joe Hayes retells the tale of a beautiful woman whose fear and jealousy dooms her to an eternal search for all she's lost.</p>	Ghost story, Mexican tradition	Bilingual

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Joe Hayes	<p>Pájaro Verde / The Green Bird (2005)</p> <p><i>Pájaro Verde</i> tells of a green bird who proposes marriage to a young girl named Mirabel. She only has two eyes, but her sisters each have a different number of eyes, beginning with the oldest, who has nine, down to the youngest, with just one. Though they mock Mirabel and her mother forbids it, Mirabel's steadfast vision sees past the bird to a handsome prince, and she marries him! What happens next can only happen in a fairy tale!</p>	Latino Folklore, story-telling, Magical realism	Bilingual
	Lynn Joseph	<p>The Color of My Words (2019)</p> <p>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.</p>	Relationships, Father/Daughter, Siblings, Power of Writing, Economy & Tourism, Social Unrest	English
	Luis Rodríguez	<p>It Doesn't Have to Be This Way/ No tiene que ser así: A Barrio Story/Una historia del barrio (2004)</p> <p>Monchi likes to write poems, hang out with his cousin, and tell stories to his uncle. Then one day, a member of the local gang tells him it's time to join up. Monchi is scared but excited. But when a tragic event changes everything, Monchi must make an important decision. There is no easy answer to his dilemma, but the love and respect of his uncle help him find a way out.</p>	Gang life, family, decision making	Bilingual

Book Cover	Author	Title & Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
	Pam Muñoz Ryan	<p>Esperanza Rising (2002)</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>	Great Depression, Farm and Ranch Life	<p>English with some words in Spanish</p> <p>Also available in Spanish</p>
	Gary Soto	<p>Neighborhood Odes (2005)</p> <p>Twenty-one poems about growing up in a Hispanic neighborhood highlight the delights in such everyday items as sprinklers, the park, the library, and pomegranates.</p>	Latino/a Experiences, Neighborhood, poetry	English with words in Spanish