

Relevant Culturally Relevant Literature (Non-Latino/a Culture)

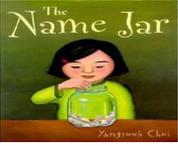
This list has been last updated in June 2016*

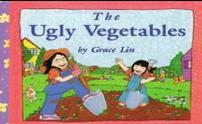
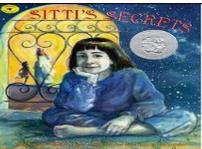
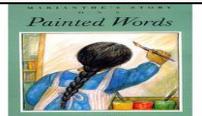
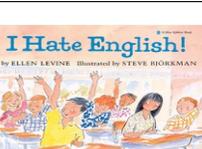
This list contains a variety of children's literature covering a wide array of themes. These books were selected because the characters in the stories reflect the diversity of cultures and languages of students in our classrooms. Some of the books are for students in elementary grades and others for those in middle and high school grades. Some of the books are either entirely in English, or in English but with words in other languages. Various books are available in languages other than English, such as Chinese, and Haitian Creole.

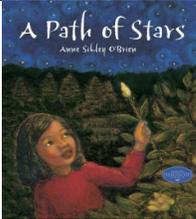
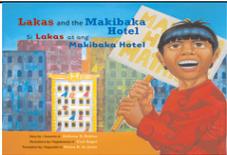
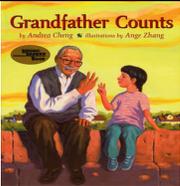
All teachers working with any student can use these books. Particularly, bilingual education teachers could use those books in English (or in English with words in other languages) during those days or times where instruction is primarily in English. Bilingual teachers working in bilingual programs in English and Chinese, Arabic or Haitian Creole can use the home language books during home language instruction or the translated texts during instruction primarily in English. Finally ESL teachers can use these books to provide students with home language support, or as examples of translanguaging while providing them with rich, culturally relevant content.

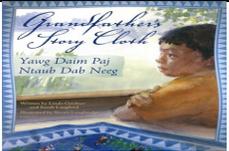
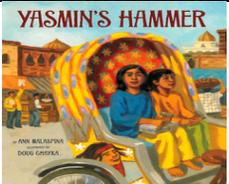
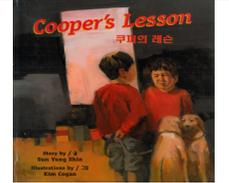
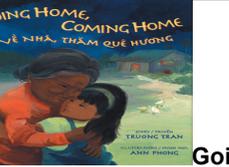
The list is organized by grade level and then by author for ease of navigation. The list also includes themes, the language(s) of the book and a description gathered from the webpages of Scholastic Book Wizard, La Casa Azul Bookstore, Lee & Low Books, Good Reads, among other sources.

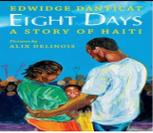
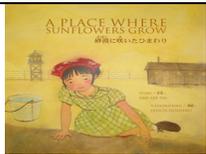
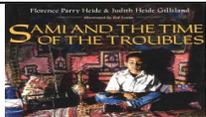
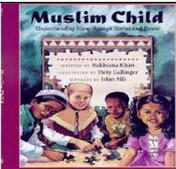
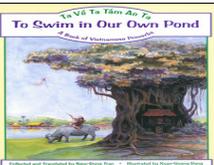
() We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this updated list: Laura Ascenzi-Moreno, Gladys Aponte, Andy Brown, Kathryn Carpenter, Cecilia, Espinosa, Sarah Hesson, Leo Smith, Cristian Solorza, Heather Woodley, and Hulda Yau.*

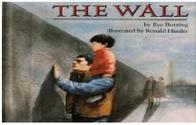
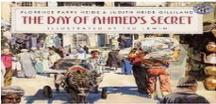
Book	Author	Grade	Description	Some Themes	Language
 <p>The Name Jar</p>	Yansook Choi	K-2	Unhei has just arrived from Korea and she doesn't want to be different from American kids. While her classmates are helping her choose an American name, Unhei realizes that being proud of her name and culture has rewards.	Immigration-emigration, relationships and families, character/virtues	English with some words in Korean

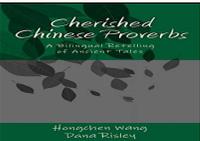
 <p>The Ugly Vegetables</p>	Grace Lin	K-2	It's easy to appreciate a garden exploding with colorful flowers and fragrances, but what do you do with a patch of ugly vegetables? This charming story includes the Chinese pronunciation of the vegetables and the recipe for ugly vegetable soup!	Gardening, community, Chinese and Chinese American, food and nutrition	English with words in Chinese
 <p>Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding</p>	Lenore Look; Yumi Heo (illustrator)	K-2	Jenny's favorite uncle, Peter, is getting married, and everyone is happy happy -- everyone, that is, except Jenny. While her family runs about getting ready for the traditional Chinese wedding Jenny is crying on the inside. How is she supposed to still be Uncle Peter's number-one girl, with her new aunt Stella around? Maybe if she can stop the day's events from happening, he won't get married at all.	Family, relationships, Asian and Asian American	English
 <p>Sitti's Secrets</p>	Naomi Shihab Nye; Nancy Carpenter (illustrator)	K-2	Mona carries special memories with her from a visit with her grandmother, who lives in a Palestinian village. Upon her return, Mona writes a letter to the U.S. president about her feelings.	Culture and diversity	English
 <p>Marianthe's Story: Painted Words/Spoken Memories</p>	Alik	K-2	Marianthe's mother tells her she must look, listen, and learn; even though she does not understand what people are saying at her new school. Mari uses her painting skill to express her feelings and to tell the class the story of how she and her family left Greece.	Character and values	English
 <p>Sam and the Lucky Money</p>	Karen Chinn, Cornelius Van Wright, and Ying-Hwa Hu	K-3	Sam can hardly wait to go shopping with his mom. It's Chinese New Year's day and his grandparents have given him the traditional gift of lucky money—red envelopes called leisees (lay-sees). This year Sam is finally old enough to spend it any way he chooses. Best of all, he gets to spend his lucky money in his favorite place — Chinatown!	Sharing and giving, holidays/traditions, cultural diversity, Asian/Asian American interest, empathy/compassion	Chinese Also available in English and Spanish
 <p>I Hate English!</p>	Ellen Levine; Steve Björkman (illustrator)	K-3	Mei Mei, an immigrant child from Hong Kong, loves New York City's Chinatown, where she feels comfortable. There the sights and sounds are familiar, and everyone speaks Chinese, just like Mei Mei. In school, however, everyone speaks English, and though Mei Mei can learn it, she doesn't want to. Afraid that she will forget Chinese, and that she will be changed by a language so different, Mei Mei resists —	Fitting in, immigration and assimilation, Chinese and Chinese American	English with words in Chinese

			until a caring teacher shows her that she can speak both languages and still be herself.		
 A Path of Stars	Anne Sibley O'Brien	1-2	Dara's grandmother, Lok Yeay, is full of stories about her life growing up in Cambodia, before she immigrated to the United States. Lok Yeay tells Dara about her brother, Lok Ta, who is still in Cambodia, and how one day she will return with Dara and Dara's family to visit the place she still considers home. But when a phone call disrupts Lok Yeay's dream to see her brother again, Dara becomes determined to bring her grandmother back to a place of happiness.	Asian, Asian-American	English
 Lakas and the Manilatown Fish	Anthony Robles; Carl Angel (illustrator)	1-3	Can a fish talk? Can it jump and play and run—especially run—just like a small boy? When Lakas and his dad go shopping, they meet a very special fish that can do all these things and more. This fish won't stay put in his fish tank! Once it leaps out, a cast of unusual Manilatown characters chases it down Kearny Street and all the way to San Francisco Bay. Hoy, hoy! Will Lakas and his friends ever catch this sly and charming fish? Will Lakas's dearest wish come true?	Animal/ biodiversity identity/ self esteem, immigration, imagination, friendship, families, cultural diversity, bilingual, Asian/Asian American	Bilingual in Tagalog and English
 Lakas and the Makibaka Hotel	Anthony Robles; Carl Angel (illustrator)	1-3	When Lakas strolls through his neighborhood one sunny afternoon, the last thing he expects to find is a group of drum-beating, tap-dancing, karaoke-singing new friends. But these new friends face a crisis: the Makibaka Hotel, where they make their home, is about to be sold. They must pack their belongings and leave their home in thirty days. Unless....	Responsibility, overcoming obstacles, music, immigration, friendship, cultural diversity, conflict resolution, Asian/Asian American interest, poverty	Bilingual in Tagalog and English
 Grandfather Counts	Andrea Cheng; Ange Zheng (illustrator)	1-3	Gong Gong (Grandfather) is coming from China to live with Helen's family. Helen is excited, but anxious. How will she and her siblings, who know only English, communicate with Gong Gong, who speaks only Chinese? At first Gong Gong keeps to himself, reading the Chinese newspapers he brought with him. Soon Helen and Gong Gong are teaching each other more words, and a special bond between them begins to develop and grow.	Sharing and giving, immigration, friendship and families, cultural diversity, Asian/Asian American interest, empathy/compassion,	English with words in Chinese

 <p>Grandfather's Story Cloth</p>	<p>Linda Gerdner, Sarah Langford; (illustrator)</p>	<p>1-4</p>	<p>Chersheng's grandfather is beginning to forget things: little things like turning off the water faucet and big things like Chersheng's name. Sometimes he even forgets that he is in America now. Chersheng feels sad and helpless when he learns that Grandfather has Alzheimer's Disease, but then Chersheng's mother presents him with a story cloth stitched by Grandfather himself, embroidered in the Hmong tradition.</p>	<p>Asian/Asian American, empathy/ compassion, families, Hmong interest, persistence/ grit, war</p>	<p>Bilingual in Hmong and English</p>
 <p>Yasmin's Hammer</p>	<p>Ann Malaspina; Doug Chayka (illustrator)</p>	<p>1-5</p>	<p>In the noisy streets of Dhaka, Bangladesh, another busy morning is beginning as Yasmin rides to work in her father's rattling rickshaw. Yasmin longs to go to school so she can learn to read, but her family needs the money she and her sister earn at the brickyard to help keep the rice bag full and the roof repaired. As she hammers away at bricks day after day, Yasmin dreams of a different life. If she could read, she could be anything she wants to be when she grows up. One night Yasmin has an idea—a secret plan that will bring her one step closer to making her dream a reality.</p>	<p>Identity/ self esteem, overcoming obstacles, families, education, dreams and aspirations, gender issues, Asian/Asian American interest, poverty, empathy/ compassion,</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Cooper's Lesson</p>	<p>Sun Yung Shin; Kim Cogan (illustrator)</p>	<p>1-5</p>	<p>Cooper has had about enough of being half and half. And he's certainly had enough of Mr. Lee, the owner of his neighborhood grocery store, speaking to him in Korean even though Cooper can't keep up. Why can't things be simple? Why can't he just be one thing or the other?</p>	<p>Identity/ self esteem/ responsibility, overcoming obstacles, immigration, friendship, forgiveness, discrimination, cultural diversity, bilingual, Asian/Asian American Interest</p>	<p>Bilingual in Korean and English</p>
 <p>Going Home, Coming Home</p>	<p>Truong Tran; Ann Phong (illustrator)</p>	<p>1-5</p>	<p>This summer, Ami Chi is taking a trip to far off Vietnam, where the streets are crowded with zipping scooters and fruit is shaped like dragons and stars. To her parents, Vietnam is still home—a home they haven't seen since they left during the war. But all this talk of going back home leaves Ami Chi confused. How can you go back home to a place you've never been?</p>	<p>Identity /self esteem, immigration, friendship, farming, families, cultural diversity, bilingual, Asian/Asian American interest</p>	<p>Bilingual in Vietnamese and English</p>
 <p>Grandma Hekmat Remembers: An Arab-American Family Story</p>	<p>Ann Morris, Peter; Linenthal (photographer)</p>	<p>2-4</p>	<p>Encourages kids to explore their own genealogy--Timely--demystifies the hejab and other aspects of Arab culture- Series teacher guide available</p>	<p>Islam, culture, Arab American, Egypt, family and relationships</p>	<p>English with Arabic words</p>

 <p>Eight Days: A Story of Haiti</p>	<p>Edwidge Danticat; Alix Delinois (illustrator)</p>	<p>2-5</p>	<p>While Junior is trapped for eight days beneath his collapsed house after an earthquake, he uses his imagination for comfort. Drawing on beautiful, everyday-life memories, Junior paints a sparkling picture of Haiti for each of those days helping him through the tragedy until he is finally rescued.</p>	<p>Earthquakes, creativity and imagination, Caribbean islander, survival</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>A Place Where Sunflowers Grow</p>	<p>Amy Lee-Tai; Felicia Hoshino (illustrator)</p>	<p>2-5</p>	<p>Mari wonders if anything can bloom at Topaz, where her family is interned along with thousands of other Japanese Americans during World War II. The summer sun is blazingly hot, and Mari's art class has begun. But it's hard to think of anything to draw in a place where nothing beautiful grows. Somehow, glimmers of hope begin to surface under the harsh sun—in the eyes of a kindly art teacher, in the tender words of Mari's parents, and in the smile of a new friend.</p>	<p>War, United States history, identity/ self esteem, imagination, heroism, friendship, families, environment/nature, discrimination, conflict resolution, Bilingual, Art, Asian/Asian American interest, courage, kindness/</p>	<p>Bilingual in Japanese and English</p>
 <p>Sami and the Time of the Troubles</p>	<p>Florence Parry Heide; Judith Heide Gilliland (illustrator)</p>	<p>3-4</p>	<p>A ten-year-old Lebanese boy goes to school, helps his mother with chores, plays with his friends, and lives with his family in a basement shelter when bombings occur and fighting begins on his street.</p>	<p>People and places, Middle East</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Muslim Child</p>	<p>Rukhsana Khan</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>Presenting aspects of the daily lives of Muslim youngsters across the world, this child's-eye-view enables non-Muslim readers to internalize and understand what the protagonists are feeling and thinking. Sidebars explain Arabic terms and aspects of Muslim belief and practice referred to in the stories. Devotional poems, selections from the Quran, and activities appear throughout.</p>	<p>Holidays, traditions, religions, relationships and families, character/ virtues</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>To Swim in Our Own Pond: A Book of Vietnamese Proverbs</p>	<p>Ngoc Dung Tran; Xuan-Quang Dang (illustrator)</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>Twenty-two fun and witty proverbs are assembled together with their corresponding English translations and western equivalents. From generation to generation in Vietnam, these intriguing oral traditions are learned at mothers' knees; told in the mountains; whispered in the fields; murmured on the river banks; and floated amidst the reeds.</p>	<p>Asian/Asian American, cultural diversity, families</p>	<p>Bilingual in Vietnamese and English</p>

 <p>The Wall</p>	<p>Eve Bunting; Ronald Himler (illustrator)</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>A boy and his father come from far away to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy's grandfather, who was killed in the conflict.</p>	<p>Landmarks, monuments, family, wars and conflicts, United States History)</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Turtle's Back/ Do Tòti</p>	<p>Marie Lily Cerat</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>A West African folktale about why turtles' backs are not smooth. In this folktale we learn about how a turtle longs to be a part of some birds' feast. After much scrutiny the birds allow turtle to join them at their feast. What begins as a celebration ends in a negative way as turtle's greed gets the best of him. Find out what happens to turtle as a result of his greed. What is the moral of the story?</p>	<p>Folktales, West Africa</p>	<p>Haitian-Creole Also available in English.</p>
 <p>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</p>	<p>Eleanor Coerr</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, eleven-year-old Sadako races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that says doing so will make a sick person healthy.</p>	<p>Sciences, family, friendship, wars & conflicts, world history, courage and survival</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>The Day of Ahmed's Secret</p>	<p>Florence Parry Heide; Ted Lewin (illustrator)</p>	<p>3-5</p>	<p>A young Egyptian boy describes the city of Cairo as he goes about his daily work and waits for the evening to share a special surprise with his family.</p>	<p>Character and values</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Dragonwings</p>	<p>Laurence Yep</p>	<p>6-8</p>	<p>When he moves from his native China to San Francisco, eight-year-old Moon Shadow has to adjust to a new country and a relationship with the father he has never met.</p>	<p>Immigration/ emigration, relationships and families, United States History, courage, survival, loyalty</p>	<p>English</p>
 <p>Modern Arabic Short Stories: A Bilingual Reader</p>	<p>Ronak Husni</p>	<p>6-12</p>	<p>Designed as a reader for intermediate students of Arabic and those who may wish to broaden their appreciation of leading Middle Eastern writers, this collection features stories in both Arabic and English translation. Prefaced by an author biography plus notes on context and background, each story is followed by a glossary and discussion of problematic language points.</p>	<p>Short-stories, Arabic, Religion Culture</p>	<p>Bilingual, Arabic and English</p>

 <p>Figs and Fate: Stories about Growing Up in the Arab World Today</p>	Elsa Marston	6-12	The five stories in this collection are told from the perspective of Arab teens living in Syria, Lebanon, a Palestinian refugee camp, Egypt, and Iraq. Each main character embarks on a mission to confront his or her social situation, whether regarding friends, family, teachers, or society at large.	Social Studies, Character and Values, Friends and Friendship, Arab teens	English
 <p>Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq</p>	Mark Alan Stamaty	6-12	The inspiring story of an Iraqi librarian's courageous fight to save books from the Basra Central Library before it was destroyed in the war. It is 2003 and Alia Muhammad Baker, the chief librarian of the Central Library in Basra, Iraq, has grown worried given the increased likelihood of war in her country. Determined to preserve the irreplaceable records of the culture and history of the land on which she lives from the destruction of the war, Alia undertakes a courageous and extremely dangerous task of spirited away 30,000 books from the library to a safe place.	Social Studies, Character and Values, Geography and Map Skills	English
 <p>Cherished Chinese Proverbs: A Bilingual Retelling of Ancient Tales</p>	Hongchen Wang and Dana Risley	6-12	Cherished Chinese Proverbs is a bilingual collection of classic stories that have been passed down to generations of Chinese speakers. This work was originally designed as a supplement for students of Chinese as a Second Language, but in this publication we have broadened the focus. In offering these classic stories in both Chinese and English, it is hoped that native Chinese speakers might also benefit. By reading familiar Chinese stories in English, a Chinese student of English may begin to expand his English vocabulary and develop more fluent reading skills.	Culture, Chinese, Proverbs	Bilingual in Chinese and English