

Celebrating Diverse Latino Cultures, Literature, and Literacy Everyday

ALSC Institute - 2010



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Locating Quality Children's and Young Adult Books About and By Latinos:

☼ Online Resources:

1. **Barahona Center for Study of Books in Spanish for Children & Adolescents** – This comprehensive website has many reviews of children's books either written in Spanish or written in English about Latinos. The site has a search engine that allows users to explore a database of Recommended Books in English About Latinos, as well as recommended Spanish titles. Users can limit the search to locate only books set in a specific country. <http://www.csusm.edu/csb/english/center.htm>
2. **The Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC)** has compiled a list of children's books about "Growing Up in the Americas" which can be accessed at: <http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/compubs/booklists/growingupworld/americas.pdf>
3. **Latino Children's and Young Adult Book Awards Websites:**
Pura Belpré Award - <http://www.ala.org/alsc/belpre>.
Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Award - <http://www.education.txstate.edu/departments/Tomas-Rivera-Book-Award-Project-Link.html> .
Américas Award - <http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/aa/index.cfm> .
4. **Reading is Fundamental's Latino Outreach Initiative's Recommended Books (Bilingual, English, & Spanish):**
http://www.rif.org/kids/leer/en/cuarto/libros_recomendados_english.htm
5. **¡Imaginense Libros!** is a virtual evaluation collection of Latino children's literature and includes information about topics related to Latino children's literature and literacy. <http://imaginenselibros.blogspot.com/>
6. **Criticas Magazine** –Review resource examining books in Spanish for both children and adults. This publication provides various articles and recommendations for serving Spanish-speaking patrons. New reviews are available on the Library Journal webpage <http://www.libraryjournal.com/csp/cms/sites/LJ/Reviews/Spanish/index.csp>.
7. **Essential Guide to Spanish Reading for Children and Young Adults** - Published by America Reads Spanish, free online book contains numerous suggested books in Spanish for children and young adults. Available as a PDF from: <http://www.americareadsspanish.org/> .
8. **Latin Baby Book Club** is a highly useful blog dedicated to highlighting Latino children's literature and providing interviews with notable Latino authors and illustrators. <http://www.latinbabybookclub.com/>
9. **Living To Tell the Story: The Authentic Latino Immigrant Experience in Picture Books**, written by René Colato Laínez, this essay describes the importance of high-quality Latino children's literature in the lives of Latino children. Available on the author's website: <http://renecolatolainez.com/>.

☼ Print Resources

1. **Isabel Schon's Books** - Schon has published numerous professional books which recommend the best children's books about the Latino people and cultures (*The Best of Latino Heritage* series) and the best children's books written in Spanish (*Books in Spanish for Children & Young Adults* series). For a list of her books consult: <http://www.csusm.edu/csb/english/ischon.htm>.
2. In her book *A Magical Encounter: Latino Children's Literature in the Classroom* (2nd ed.), Alma Flor Ada has compiled a bibliography of Literature for Children and Adolescents by Latina and Latino Writers, which divided into the following genres: nursery rhymes and oral folklore, poetry, theater, art, biography, autobiographical narrative, folktales and legends, fantasy, contemporary realistic fiction, and historical fiction by Latino and non-Latino authors.
3. **Sherry York's Books.** *Children's and Young Adult Literature by Latino Writers: A Guide for Librarians, Teachers, Parents, and Students.* Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing, 2002. and *Picture Books by Latino Writers: A Guide for Librarians, Teachers, Parents, and Students.* Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing, 2002.
4. Tim Wadham's *Libros Esenciales: Building, Marketing, and Programming a Core Collection of Spanish Language Children's Materials.* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2007) lists many books about Latinos or written in Spanish and suggests finger rhymes and book-related activities to accompany some of the recommended titles.

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5. Frances Ann Day's *Latina and Latino Voices in Literature* (Westport, Ct: Greenwood Press, 2003) introduces numerous authors from the Latino cultures along with their significant contributions.
6. Naidoo, J. C. & López-Robertson, J. (2007). *Descubriendo el sabor: Spanish bilingual book publishing and cultural authenticity*. *Multicultural Review*, 16(4), 24-37. This article examines the use of Spanish in bilingual children's books and considerations for selecting these books for classroom and library collections.
7. Doris Dale's *Bilingual Children's Books in English and Spanish: An Annotated Bibliography, 1942-2001*. (2003, 2nd ed.) supplies an extensive list of bilingual books along with annotations and the names of review resources.

Information on Library Services to Latino Children:

There are numerous print and non-print resources for assisting librarians serving Latino populations. Below is my selection of the most useful resources:

1. Immroth, B. & McCook, K. (2000). *Library Services to Youth of Hispanic Heritage*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
2. Moller, S. (2001). *Library Services to Spanish Speaking Patrons: A Practical Guide*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.
3. REFORMA – an affiliate of ALA & the national association to promote library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish speaking. Available at: <http://www.reforma.org>.
4. Center for Children & Families. (2002). *Improving Access & Opportunity for Latinos in Early Childhood*. Available at: <http://www.ccf.edc.org/latinos/index.htm>
5. WebJunction's Spanish Language Outreach Program contains information a various facets of serving Spanish-speaking patrons in the library. <http://www.webjunction.org/spanish>
6. Spanish in Our Libraries and Public Libraries Using Spanish provides numerous resources for libraries serving Spanish-speaking populations including library signage in Spanish. <http://www.sol-plus.net/>.
7. Wadham, T. (1999) *Programming with Latino Children's Materials*. New York: Neal-Schuman.
8. Alire, C. and Ayala, J. (2007). *Serving Latino Communities: A How-to-do-it Manual for Librarians*, 2nd Edition. New York: Neal-Schuman.
9. Chiles: Children and Libraries en Español - Created by Amanda Sharpe, this blog contains considerable information related to library services to Latino and Spanish-speaking children. <http://www.chil-es.org/home/> .
10. ¡Es divertido hablar dos idiomas! - Created by Katie Cunningham, this blog is dedicated to sharing books, music, literacy techniques, and practical suggestions related to delivering bilingual story programs in the library. <http://www.bilingualchildrensprogramming.blogspot.com>.
11. National Latino Children's Literature Conference - This annual conference, created by Drs. Jamie C. Naidoo and Julia Lopez-Robertson, is designed to prepare librarians, teachers, and educators for the joys of working with Latino children using authentic Latino children's literature. The conference, held each spring, is hosted by the Universities of Alabama. Additional information is available by contacting jcnaidoo@slis.ua.edu or visiting <http://www.latinochildlitconf.org/>.

Education-Based Latino Literacy Programs/Outreach Services:

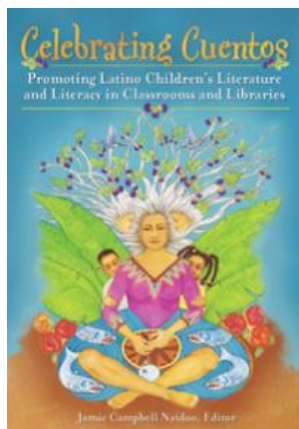
¡Colorín Colorado! –This literacy program provides information on the importance of reading in the lives of English Language Learner (ELL) children, specifically Latino children. Activities and links are available concerning children's literature about Latinos, helping Latino families, how the school can help Latino families, etc. The activities, free 92 page booklet, and video clips of Latino authors are available at: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/>.

Lee y serás (Read & You Will Be) – Created with the support of Scholastic and Verizon, this program provides support for Latino parents with training about early literacy, offers educators resources that will create print-rich learning environments for Latino children, and supplies information to public agencies to support Latino literacy in the community. More information about the program is available at: <http://www.leeyseras.net/site/main.html> or <http://www.scholastic.com/aboutscholastic/communityleeyseras.htm>.

Cuentos y Más is a one-of-a-kind literacy program that promotes reading among both English and Spanish-speaking children. Think of a bilingual Reading Rainbow and you have Cuentos y Más. Free webstreams of programs are available: http://arlington.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=13

Resources for Planning Latino Literacy and Library Programs:

1. Official El día de los Niños/El día de los libros (Day of the Child/Day of the Book) website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/diadelosninos/index.cfm> .
2. Alma Flor Ada's book *Alma Flor Ada and You Vols. 1 & 2* (2005/2008) provides numerous practical suggestions for integrating Latino children's literature into the classroom. Her book is published by Libraries Unlimited.
3. Treviño, Rose. *Read Me a Rhyme in Spanish and English: Léame una rima en español e ingles*. Bilingual storytime programs and rhymes for young children. Chicago: ALA, 2009.
4. Pavon and Borrego's book *25 Latino Craft Projects* (2003) is one of the best resources for book and craft suggestions for both traditional and family programs relating to Latino holidays. This resource describes programming ideas for El día de los Niños/El día de los libros, Cinco de Mayo, Hispanic Heritage Month, Día de los Muertos, Las Posadas, and Navidad. To supplement this book, I suggest Menard's *The Latino Holiday Book: From Cinco de Mayo to Día de los Muertos--the Celebrations and Traditions of Hispanic-Americans* (2004, 2nd ed.).
5. *Dígame un cuento/Tell Me A Story: Bilingual Library Programs for Children and Families* – Created by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, this useful online manual suggests bilingual story hour programs for Latino children and their families. Media Specialists can use this resource to plan activities using Latino children's books. Available at: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/bilingual/index.html>.
6. El día de los Niños/El día de los libros (Day of the Child/Day of the Book) Toolkit is a 100 page online document describing booktalks, author visits, storytelling, and other programming ideas that can be used to celebrate El día de los Niños/El día de los libros on April 30th. These suggestions can be used for library programs throughout the entire year! The comprehensive document is available at: <http://www.texasdia.org/toolkit.html>.
7. REFORMA's Children's and Young Adults Services website offers many activities and resources for bilingual storytimes and resources. <http://www.reforma.org/CYASC.htm>
8. Treviño, Rose (editor). *The Pura Belpré Awards: Celebrating Latino Authors and Illustrators*. (Book and DVD). Chicago: ALA, 2006.
9. Carmen Lomas Garza's *Magic Windows/Ventanas mágicas*. Children's Book Press, 1999. This book can be paired with her craft book *Making Magic Windows: Creating Cut-Paper Art with Carmen Lomas Garza (1999)* for an intergenerational family program.
10. Angel Vigils' *¡Teatro!: Hispanic Plays for Young People* (1996) contains 14 plays based upon Latino culture.
11. Diamont-Cohen, Betsy. *Early Literacy Programming en Español: Mother Goose on the Loose Programs for Bilingual Learners*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2010.
12. **Noche de Cuentos** program – Sponsored by the American Library Association and created by members of REFORMA, this national, family literacy program promotes rich storytelling and oral traditions among Latino families. Planning and publicity resources are available at <http://nochedecuentos.wordpress.com/>.
13. Naidoo, J. C. (Editor) (2010). *Celebrating Cuentos: Promoting Latino Children's Literature and Literacy in Classrooms and Libraries*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.



GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT LATINOS



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Examine the Personal Traits of the Character

- ❖ Are the Latino characters portrayed as having a broad range of emotions similar to characters from other cultures?
- ❖ Can Latinos solve their own problems or do they rely upon Anglos for help?
- ❖ Do Latinos abandon some aspect of their culture in order to achieve happiness?
- ❖ Do Latinos move to the U.S. where everything is "perfect" and everyone is happy?

Examine the Role of Various Characters

- ❖ Do Latino characters actively participate in the story (main characters) or are they only secondary characters? Do they have leadership roles?
- ❖ Do Latinos spend their time taking siestas and putting off things until mañana?
- ❖ Are Latino characters in culturally stereotyped roles such as newly arrived immigrants, men full of machismo, shy girls, mothers of many children, or gang members?
- ❖ Is a strong sense of community and family expressed in the illustrations and text? Do elders help care for the children?

Examine and Identify Cultural Stereotypes

- ❖ Are Latinos only depicted as poor low class citizens often living in barrios (Latino neighborhoods)?
- ❖ Are cultural stereotypes present in the illustrations such as sombreros, piñatas, cacti, mariachi bands, donkeys, and palm trees?
- ❖ Are females depicted outdoors and as active as male characters?
- ❖ Do Latinos lapse into Spanish when excited or use broken English?

Examine the Diversity of Representation in Text and Illustrations

- ❖ Are positive role models of both genders provided for Latino children?
- ❖ Do all of Latino characters have the same appearance? OR Is the diversity in skin tones, hair styles and textures, and clothing presented? Not all Latinos have a "Latin Look" of dark skin, hair, and eyes.
- ❖ Are varied cultural experiences of Latinos represented? Is the diversity of the Latino cultures represented such as Central and South America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, etc.?

Examine the Experience of the Author and Illustrator

- ❖ Does the author/illustrator have experience with the Latino subculture that he/she is representing? OR Is the book written/illustrated by someone who has briefly visited a Latin American country? How qualified is the author/illustrator to write the book?

* Many of the ideas for these evaluation criteria are my own and other are adapted from: Council on Interracial Books for Children. "Latinos or Hispanic Americans." *Guidelines for selecting bias-free textbooks and storybooks*. New York: Author, 1980.

RECOMMENDED LATINO CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Picturebooks

- Brown, Monica, and Magaly Morales. *Chavela and the Magic Bubble*. Boston, MA: Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.
- Carling, Amelia Lau. *Mama and Papa Have a Store*. New York: Dial/Penguin, 1998.
- Cohn, Diana, and Amy Córdova. *Dream Carver*. New York: Chronicle, 2002.
- Contreras, Kathleen, and Margaret Lindmark. *Trencitas/Braids*. New York: Lectorum, 2009.
- Cox, July, and Angela Dominguez. *Carmen Learns English*. New York: Holiday House, 2010.
- González, Lucía, and Lulu Delacre. *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2008.
- Gonzalez, Maya Christina. *I Know the River Loves Me/Yo sé que el río me ama*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2009.
- Gonzalez, Maya Christina. *My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2007.
- Gribel, Christiane. *No voy a dormir/I Am Not Going to Sleep*. New York: Lectorum Publications, 2009.
- Lacámara, Laura, and Yuyi Morales. *Floating on Mama's Song/Flotando en la canción de mamá*. New York: Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, 2010.
- Laínez, René Colato, and Joe Cepeda. *From North to South/Del norte al sur*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 2010.
- Laínez, René Colato, and Fabricio Vanden Broeck. *My Shoes and I*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010.
- Laínez, René Colato, and Fabiola Graullera Ramírez. *René Has Two Last Names / René tiene dos apellidos*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books, 2009.
- Laínez, René Colato, and Tom Lintern. *The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2010.
- McCormack, Caren McNelly, and Martha Avilés. *The Fiesta Dress: A Quinceañera Tale*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2009.
- Montes, Marissa, and Yuyi Morales. *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2006.
- Mora, Pat and Maribel Suárez. *Here Kitty, Kitty/¡Ven, gatita, ven!*. New York: Rayo, 2008.
- Mora, Pat, and Raúl Colón. *Tomás and the Library Lady*. New York: Knopf, 1997.
- Mora, Pat and Rafael López. *Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day Book Fiesta: Celebramos El día de los niños/El día de los libros*. New York: Rayo/HarperCollins, 2009.
- Morales, Yuyi. *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2008.
- Morales, Yuyi. *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*. New York: Chronicle, 2003.
- Morales, Yuyi. *Little Night*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2007.
- Pérez, Amada Irma, and Maya Christina Gonzalez. *My Diary from Here to There/Mi diario de aquí hasta allá*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2002.
- Tafolla, Carmen, and Magaly Morales. *What Can You Do with a Paleta?/ ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2009.
- Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010.

Novels

- Ada, Alma Flor. *My Name is Maria Isabel*. New York: Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, 1993.
- Alvarez, Julia. *How Tía Lola Came to Stay*. New York: Dell Yearling, 2002.
- Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender*. New York: Knopf, 2009.
- Ellis, Deborah. *I Am a Taxi*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2006.
- Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Esperanza Rising*. New York: Scholastic, 2000.
- Ryan, Pam Muñoz, and Peter Sís. *The Dreamer*. New York: Scholastic, 2010.
- Hijuelos, Oscar. *Dark Dude*. New York: Atheneum, 2008.
- Jiménez, Francisco. *Breaking Through*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.
- López, Diana. *Confetti Girl*. New York: Little Brown, and Company, 2009.
- Miller-Lachmann, Lyn. *Gringolandia*. Willimantic, CT: 2009.
- Pellegrino, Marge. *Journey of Dreams*. London: Frances Lincoln, 2009.
- Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. *Sammy & Juliana in Hollywood*. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2004.
- Soto, Gary. *Accidental Love*. New York: Harcourt, 2006.
- Soto, Gary. *Baseball in April and Other Stories*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 1990.

Folktales

- Alvarez, Julia, and Ruddy Núñez. *El mejor regalo del mundo: La leyenda de la Vieja Belén/The Best Gift of All: The Legend of La Vieja Belén*. Miami, FL: Santillana USA, 2008.
- Anzaldúa, Gloria, and [Maya] Christina Gonzalez. *Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la llorona*. San Francisco: Children's Books Press, 1996.
- Deedy, Carmen Agra, and Michael Austin. *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2007.
- González, Lucía, and Lulu Delacre. *The Bossy Gallito/El gallo de bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1994.
- Montes, Marisa, and Joe Cepeda. *Juan Bobo Goes to Work: A Puerto Rican Folk Tale*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.
- Mora, Pat, and Raul Colón. *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Big Heart*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Poetry

- Alarcón, Francisco X., and Maya Christina Gonzalez. *Angels Ride Bikes and Other Fall Poems/Los Ángeles andan en bicicleta y otros poemas de otoño*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 1999.
- Engle, Margarita. *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*. New York: Henry Holt, 2008.
- Engle, Margarita, and Sean Qualls. *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*. New York: Henry Holt, 2006.
- Mora, Pat, and Rafael López. *Yum! ¡MmMm! ¡Qué Rico!: Americas' Sproutings*. New York: Lee & Low, 2007.

Songs/Rhymes

- Ada, Alma F., Campoy, F. Isabel, and Alice Schertle. *¡Pío Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003.
- Ada, Alma Flor, and F. Isabel Campoy. *Mamá Goose: A Latino Nursery Treasury/Mamá Goose: Un tesoro de rimas infantiles*. New York: Hyperion, 2004.

- Delacore, Lulu. *Arboró, mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2004.
- Mora, Pat, and Magaly Morales. *A Piñata in a Pine Tree: A Latino Twelve Days of Christmas*. New York: Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.
- Orozco, José-Luis and Elisa Kleven. *De colores and Other Latin American Folk Songs for Children*. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1999.
- Orozco, José-Luis and Elisa Kleven. *Diez dedos and Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America*. New York: Puffin, 2002.

Informational

- Ancona, George. *Capoeira : Game! Dance! Martial Art!* New York: Lee & Low Books, 2007.
- Ancona, George. *Harvest*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2001
- Ancona, George. *Mayeros: A Yucatec Maya Family*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.
- Brown, Monica, and Joe Cepeda. *Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez/Lado a lado: La historia de Dolores Huerta y César Chávez*. New York: Rayo/HarperCollins, 2010.
- Cumpiano, Ina, and José Ramírez. *Quinito's Neighborhood/El vecindario de Quinito*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2005.
- de Fatima Campos, Maria. *Victoria Goes to Brazil*. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009.
- Deedy, Carmen Agra. *Growing Up Cuban in Decatur Georgia*. Atlanta, GA: PeachTree, 1995/2004.
- Garza, Carmen Lomas. *Magic Windows: Ventanas mágicas*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 1999.
- Marín, Guadalupe Rivera, and Diego Rivera. *My Papa Diego and Me: Memories of My Father and His Art/Mi papa Diego y yo: Recuerdos de mi padre y su arte*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2009.

