



# The Booklist Project



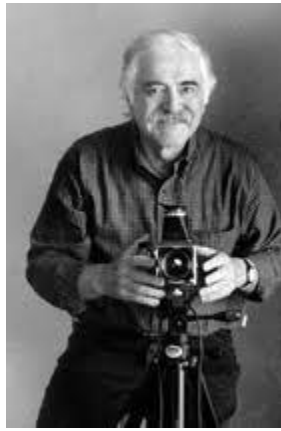
Focus: Culturally-Responsive Author Study  
Booklist

George Ancona

Developed by: Donna Rodriguez

Fall, 2011

# Author Study



George Ancona

Grade Level: 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

Donna Rodriguez

TESL 507

October 5, 2011

George Ancona was born on December 4, 1929 and grew up in Coney Island, New York where he lived with his parents who immigrated from Mexico. He began a career in advertising after graduating from art school, before turning his career to children's books. He began illustrating books for other authors by taking photographs to go along with their texts, an interest he picked up from his father whose hobby was photography. After a publisher encouraged him to write his own children's books, he became an award winning photographer and author of books for young readers. Ancona has photographed and written about everything, but he is particularly interested in writing about his Mexican heritage, as well as the lives of people of different cultures that he has visited in his travels.

George Ancona currently lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Ancona's books are non-fiction and are based on real people and the communities they live in. The overall topics include communities, ways of life, neighborhood life, and the traditions and cultures of the Hispanic and Latino people. He incorporates his beautiful photographs to enhance the text and understanding of his readers.

George Ancona's Official Website: <http://www.georgeancona.com/>

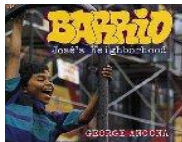
A video interview: <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/ancona>

Interviews: <http://bwibooks.com/articles/george-ancona.php>

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=2187>

## Book List

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Ancona, George. (1998). Barrio Jose's Neighborhood: Florida: Harcourt Books.

[ISBN: 978-0-15-201048-5]

Book Summary: This is a book about a neighborhood in San Francisco where Jose Luis lives. This true story takes you into his everyday life within and around his community, from his bilingual classroom and school yard, to the murals painted on the buildings, and how the people work together to improve where they live. It explains why his parents came to America and describes the neighborhood they live in and what you would find there. This story also shows how the community prepares for Carnival, and El Dia de los Muertos. It's about Jose learning about the different cultures in his community, but keeping many of his parents' traditions and customs.

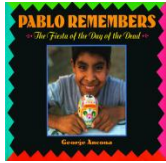
This book would be good for ELLs because it is about community, ways of life, and life within a neighborhood.

WIDA Level: Developing and Up

Guided Reading Level: P

Book available: Hardcover, Paperback, English and Spanish Language Edition

<http://www4.uwm.edu/ciacs/aa/book/pdf/barrio.pdf>



Ancona, George. (1993). Pablo Remembers *The Fiesta of the Day of the Dead*. New York: Lothrop, Lee, & Shepard Books.

[ISBN 0-688-11249-8]

Book Summary: This is a true story about a family who is making preparations to honor a grandmother who died two years ago. Pablo is missing his grandmother, but he finds comfort in the preparations and activities that go along with The Day of the Dead. His family is preparing a traditional meal and getting altars ready to honor the grandmother who had died. The children are even making decorations of sugar skulls. It is a time for families and friends to get together. This book also includes an author's note explaining how the Day of the Dead grew out of the beliefs of the Aztecs, Catholics, and Spanish conquistadors. There is a glossary that lists the Spanish words with their English translations as well.

This book would be good because you could teach about The Day of the Dead instead of focusing on Halloween. Besides being good for holidays, community and ways of life, it is also a good book to use when teaching Folk Tales and Myths.

WIDA Level: Developing & Up (Age Level: 9-12)

Book Available: Hardcover and paperback



Ancona, George. (1997). *MAYEROS A Yucatec Maya Family*. New York: Lothrop, Lee, & Shepard Books.

[ISBN 0-699-13465-5]

Book Summary: This book has great photos of the Yucatan Peninsula and the Maya people who presently live there. The author did a great job mixing the past with the present by showing through photos and text, what ancient customs are still used today. There is also a historical note from the author which gives a deeper knowledge of the Maya Culture and civilization.

*Received the Americas Award for Children and Young Adults (1997)*

This book would be good to teach about the Maya descendants and the Ancient Maya Culture. It opens a window into the lives of a family of Maya descent to see how traditional customs are preserved through the generations.

WIDA Level: Expanding and Up

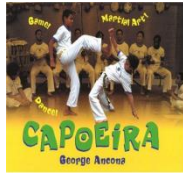
Lexile: 990

Book Available: Hardcover

<http://www.timewarptrio.com/teachers/parents/lessons/pdf/twt-lesson-maya.pdf>

<http://www.overturecenter.com/file/upload/sones-de-mexico-resource-guide.pdf>

<http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/Haffenreffer/documents/CultureConnectteacherpacketfinal.pdf>



Ancona, George. (2007). Capoeira: New York: Lee & Low Books.

[ISBN 978-1-58430-268-1]

Book Summary: A trip to the old capital of Brazil inspired the author to write a book about Capoeira, a martial art form that is also a dance. The reader learns about the components of Capoeira such as movements, music, instruments, and language through the students and instructor of the Mandinga Academy in the U.S. and Brazilian Academies as well. The author also included the history of Capoeira and how it was brought to Brazil by African slaves. There is a Glossary and Pronunciation Guide to help pronounce Portuguese words, and a definition or explanation of each word.

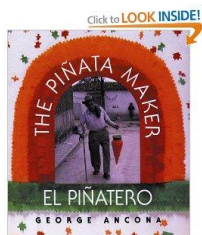
The photos and topic would be of interest to the students. Also, there are Martial Art Schools that will come out and do a program with the students. The students would learn about the history of the art form along with the songs that are sung in Portuguese, and the traditional instruments that they're played on. It also builds self-confidence, self-control, and other character building traits.

WIDA Level: Developing and Up (Ages: 9-12)

Book Available: Hardcover and paperback

Capoeira book talk with George Ancona: <http://www.leeandlow.com/p/ancona.mhtml>

Martial Art School located in Warwick, RI that teaches Capoeira: [www.newwavesd.com](http://www.newwavesd.com)



Ancona, George. (1994). The Pinata Maker/El Piñatero: San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt Books.

[ISBN 0-15-200060-7]

Book Summary: This is a true story about Don Ricardo or Tio Rico, as he is known to the children of a village in southern Mexico. The story is based around the art form of piñata making that he has been working at for the last fifteen years. It shows the materials needed and the steps taken to create his beautiful piñatas, masks and puppets, as well as the joy it brings to the children and people of his village. This book is written in English and Spanish and has beautifully detailed photos to go along with the text.

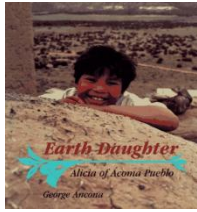
This book would be a good book to send home with the students so they can share it with their families in their home language. It can also be used when learning about a traditional holiday, like Cinco de Mayo or Christmas in Mexico, where the students can make their own to celebrate the fiesta. There are directions in the book to make your own.

WIDA Level: Developing and Up

Book available: Hardcover and paperback

<http://www.mexonline.com/cinco-de-mayo.htm>

<http://www.nacnet.org/assunta/nacimnto.htm>



Ancona, George. (1995). *Earth Daughter Alicia of Acoma Pueblo*: New York: Simon & Schuster Books.

[ISBN 0-689-80322-2]

**Book Summary:** This is a true story about Alicia who is a direct descendent of the Anasazi people who are known for working with clay. Her parents are carrying on the time honored Pueblo tradition and are passing down the art of pottery making to their daughter. This book follows along on Alicia's journey as she learns this tradition which was passed down through generations. We learn what materials are needed and how they are used, as well as how the people of the Acoma Pueblo make the pottery to stay connected to the land and their traditions.

This book would be good to use when teaching about the people of Acoma, which means "Ako" in the Keresan language that they speak. It would also be interesting to teach about a tribe who has always been able to live on the land of their ancestors without ever being forced to relocate, as many other Native tribes have.

WIDA Level: Expanding & Up

Grade Level Equivalent: 5.8

Lexile: 940L

Book Available: Hardcover

<http://www.indianpueblo.org/19pueblos/acoma.html>

<http://canyonart.com/acoma.htm>



Ancona, George. (2000). *Cuban Kids*: New York: Marshall Cavendish.

[ISBN 0-7614-5077-7]

**Book Summary:** This book is a photo essay and interesting text describing the lives of Cuban children at home, at school, with friends, and having fun. There is a glossary at the end of the book to translate Spanish words into English. The author wrote this book after revisiting Cuba after forty years.

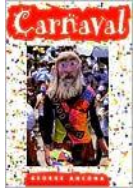
This book could be used to show students that they can relate with other kids around the world by identifying with their similarities, and appreciating their differences.

WIDA Level: Expanding and Up

Book Available: Hardcover

<http://Kellogg.nd.edu/outreach/cubacarib.shtml>

<http://kellogg.nd.edu/outreach/index.shtml>



Ancona, George. (1999). *Carnaval*: San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt Books.

[ISBN 0-15-201792-5]

**Book Summary:** The vivid, colorful photos capture the people of Olinda, a town in Brazil, as they prepare for the five day Carnival. They combine dancing and singing, and colorful puppets, masks and costumes to parade through the streets of their town to celebrate the traditional folklore and shared cultures that the Brazilian people share. The author's note shares the history of the people of this town as well as the history of Carnival.

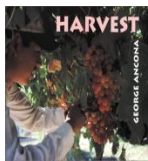
This book is great to teach how the different cultures come together to celebrate their age old traditions of African, European, and Indigenous backgrounds

WIDA Level: Developing and Up

Lexile Level: 910L

Book Available: Hardcover and paperback

<http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-/Co/Brazil.html>



Ancona, George. (2001). *Harvest*: New York: Marshall Cavendish.

[ISBN 0-7614-5086-6]

**Book Summary:** In this true story, the author has documented the lives of the migrant workers through photographs and text to show how hard they work to earn every penny they make. It shows a people who are trying to make a better life for their families by enduring this back breaking work that takes them away from their homes and extended families. The narrator switches back and forth between the personal stories of some of the workers to the actual process of harvesting the crops. It also has a two page brief about Cesar Chavez and his fight for their rights to protect migrant workers. There is a glossary defining the Spanish words throughout the text.

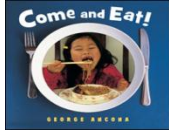
This book would be good to teach kids about where they get the foods they eat, and who are the people that make that happen. It will also teach the students about hardships that they face and the sacrifices their families make and why they have to make them. Also, the students can learn about Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huertas, and the United Farmers Worker Union, and the work that they have done to protect the migrant workers.

WIDA Level: Expanding and Up

Book Available: Hardcover

<http://www.pbs.org/itve/fightfields/cesarchavez1.html>

Krull, Kathleen. (2003). *Harvesting Hope The Story of Cesar Chavez*: New York: Harcourt Books.



Ancona, George. (2011). Come and Eat: Massachusetts: Charlesbridge Books.

[ISBN 978-1-58089-367-1]

Book Summary:

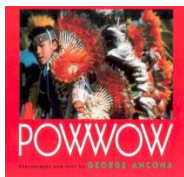
This book is about what all people have in common, eating to live. It also shows how eating brings people together in friendship and with families to share food and conversation. Through the photographs and text the reader learns the where, when, why, what, and how we eat around the world.

Friendship, sharing, and exploring the different cultures' foods and eating habits would be good themes when using this book. The photos really pull the reader in and the simple text is easy to understand. This book could also be good for ELLs because it could generate a lot of oral language just from the photographs alone.

Book Available: Hardcover and paperback

WIDA Level: Beginning and Up

A great activity could be to have each student bring in a traditional recipe from home with directions in how to eat it. The recipes could be compiled into a cook book, so each student would receive one. Also there could be a celebration of the diversities in the classroom where each student brings in prepared food for the students to share. \*allergies would have to be cleared first of course.



Ancona, George. (1993). Pow Wow: New York: Harcourt Books.

[ISBN 0-15-263269-7]

Book Summary: This book focuses on the Crow Fair, the largest powwow in Montana, where many tribes come from cities, towns and reservations to celebrate and share their Native American heritage. After the parade which opens the powwow, the dancers dress in traditional costume to perform their traditional dances to rhythmic drum beats and chants. The dancers compete to see who will win the prize for the best in each category.

This book could be used when teaching about Native Americans' culture and traditions.

WIDA Level: Expanding and Up

Lexile Level: 1050

<http://www.learn.org/lp/pages/4049>



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# The Booklist Project

A Project of the  
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human Development  
Rhode Island College

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