



The Booklist Project

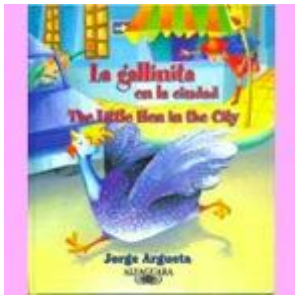
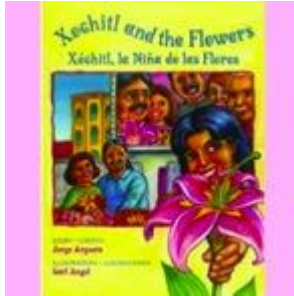
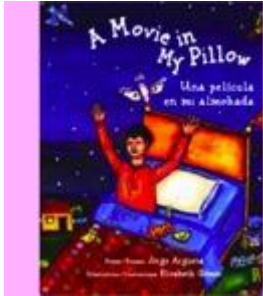


Focus: Culturally-Responsive Author Study Booklist

Jorge Argueta

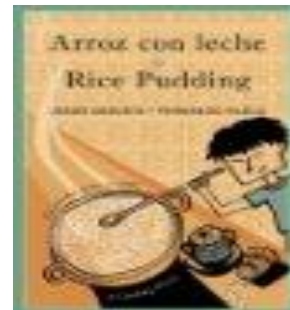
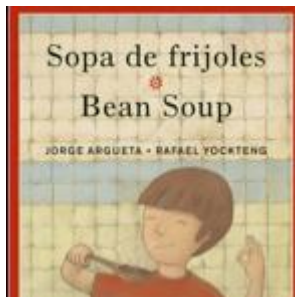
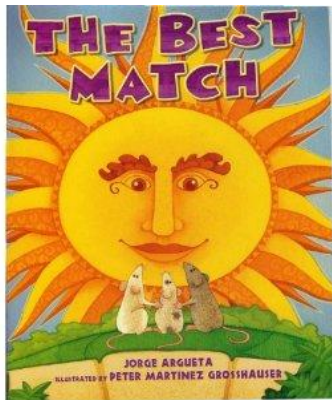
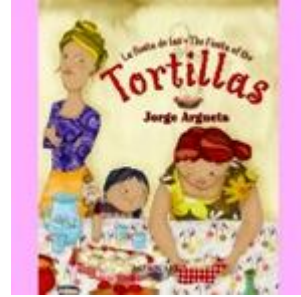
Developed by: Jennifer Banos

Fall, 2011



Author Study:
Jorge Argueta
An award winning poet and children's author from
El Salvador

Jennifer Banos
Rhode Island College
October 5, 2011
Grade 1~5





JORGE TETL ARGUETA

was born and raised in rural El Salvador, Central America. As a native Salvadoran and Pipil/Nahua Indian, this accomplished poet and author weaves a great deal of his own family culture and country folk lore into his stories and poems. The winner of numerous awards and prestigious recognition for his work, Jorge Argueta continues to create stories geared for children. His writing overflows with influence from the richness of memories of a war-torn country. The gifts of Mother Earth, the sounds and smells from a busy family restaurant, the tastes of special ingredients that make family recipes truly memorable, the emotions of leaving a world behind to begin anew in a safer place...are woven throughout his stories. Arriving to the United States in 1980, Jorge connected with other writers and avenues to share his talents such as in coffeehouses and publications.

Paired with the talents of Elizabeth Gomez (*A movie in my pillow and Moony Luna*), Carl Angel (*Xochitl and the Flowers*), Gloria Calderone (*Zipitio*), Mima Castro (*The little hen in the city*), Maria Jesus Alvarez (*The fiesta of the tortillas*), Lucia Angela Perez (*Talking with Mother Earth*), Luis Garay (*Alfredito flies home*), Peter Martinez Grosshauser (*The best match*), Rafael Yockteng (*Bean Soup*) and Fernando Vilela (*Rice Pudding*), the following booklist is generated to build a reading library for English Language Learners. Although these books are promoted for ages 4-9 years of age, I can easily see this collection of books being well used through the elementary grades and also by adult English language learners.

Jorge is active in the cultural life of the city in which he resides and also works with humanitarian organizations to assist families and children in El Salvador. www.jorgeargueta.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUCegZfIFeg

Jorge Argueta is also the Director of "Talleres de Poesia" a literary organization based in the US, that launched and organized an Annual Children's Poetry Festival in El Salvador (November 2010), and is in the process of organizing a second Festival this fall (2011). Further information about this organization can be viewed at www.talleresdepoesia.org.

Book list

1. Argueta, J. (2001). *A movie in my pillow/Una película en mi almohada*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press. [ISBN 0-89239-165-0] bilingual hardcover

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Received the Americas Book Award for *A Movie in my Pillow*, presented at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. This book also received the IPPY Award for Multicultural Fiction Juvenile/ Young Adults, and the Skipping Stones Honor Award for Multicultural and International Books.

Summary: In Jorge Argueta's first published release of children's poems, young Jorgito shares some special memories along with difficult decisions that millions have faced to leave a home torn from civil war through creative poems. The influences of family and nature help to offset the sadness of friends and family left behind, as the words unravel from a young boy's perspective. This collection is saturated with the colors, tastes, smells and sights of special memories along with the love that is shared by family as they wait to reunite.

WIDA level: Beginning/Developing

<http://jorgeargueta.com/Jorge%20Argueta/Children%27s%20Lesson%201.html>

2. Argueta, J. (2003). *Xochitl and the flowers/Xochitl, la Nina de las Flores*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press. [ISBN -13: 978-0-89239-224-7] bilingual paperback

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Selected as one of the best children's bilingual books

Summary: Based on a true-life story, *Xochitl* (which means "flower" in the Nahuatl language) tells of her family and life in San Francisco, far from her native El Salvador. Selling flowers on the street, her mami dreams of having her own shop someday. The flowers are a reminder of family, of life left behind in El Salvador. Dad surprises the family by renting an apartment with space in the back to grow flowers, like the garden Mami dreamed of. After turning a junk yard into a fertile area to begin their garden, they are faced with the resistance of neighbors not willing to let this business be opened. With confidence and determination, the neighbors are shown that this flower shop will be a positive thing for the community...and they are given their fair opportunity.

WIDA level: High Expanding/Bridging

<http://www.childrensbookpress.org/resources/themes-and-units-classroom>

3. Argueta, J. (2003). *Zipitio*. Toronto, Ontario: Greenwood Books.

[ISBN 0-88899-487-7] Also Available in Spanish translation [ISBN 0-88899-539-3]

Hardcover

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Summary: Pipil/Nahua tradition tells of Zipitio, who is older than the rocks and even older than the river. He has fallen in love with many of the young girls in the village...and

Mom warns her little girl that she may be seeing him around by the river. Peculiar as he is with backwards feet, a big round belly and a black hat, Zipitio is a sign that young girls are about to enter womanhood and mom's warning takes her fright away.

WIDA level: High Expanding/Bridging

4. Argueta, J. (2005). *Moony Luna/ Luna, Lunita Lunera*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book

Press. [ISBN 0-89239-205-3] bilingual hardcover

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Received the 2005 National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA), Gold Medal Award for *Moony Luna*.

Summary: How does it feel to be as big as the moon, but afraid to begin school? Five year old Luna is reluctant to go to school even after Mom reads a bedtime story of a little monster who went to school and had a happy day there. With Mom and Dad's love to guide her along, Luna does go to school but is so afraid of what will happen when Mom and Dad leave. She finds that the kindness and support of new friends can be all it takes to feel even bigger than the moon.

WIDA level: Developing/Expanding

5. Argueta, J. (2006). *La gallinita en la ciudad /The little hen in the city*. Miami, FL: Santillana

USA Publishing Company, Inc. [ISBN 1-59820-093-3] dual-language hardcover

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Summary: In this story, Natalia is certain that a stray guinea hen she sees fly by her window in the city is in need of rescue, but the tired old hen is quite tricky to catch. With the help of her friend Samuel, and with a lot of persistence, the hen finds a happy home and is a dear reminder of Natalia's own grandfather, living back in El Salvador, who she misses. She remembers his words that he once told her, that "whenever you want to see me, I'll fly over to visit you." So this little lost hen is worth the effort to protect!

WIDA level: Expanding/ Bridging

6. Argueta, J. (2006). *La fiesta de las tortillas/ The fiesta of the tortillas*. Miami, FL: Santillana

USA Publishing Company, Inc. [ISBN 1-59820-094-1] dual-language hardcover

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Summary: Inspired by his own time spent in his family's restaurant in El Salvador as a boy, Jorge Argueta writes this fictional story of a family brought together by the traditional staple~ hand-made tortillas. Suspense carries throughout the story as unexplainable noises and clapping are heard to the beat of forming tortillas? It is agreed that the "Spirit of the Corn" has visited them, bringing the suspense to a humorous and touching discovery in the end as the family gathers "around" in the kitchen. Read for yourself ad Koki and his family endure the hustle and bustle of a hard working family, centered on the mysterious rhythms heard by all.

WIDA level: High Expanding/ Bridging

7. Argueta,J. (2006). *Talking with Mother Earth~ poems/ Hablando con Madre Tierra~ poemas*.

Toronto, Ontario: Greenwood Press/House of Anansi Press.

[ISBN 13:978-0-88899-6268] dual-language hardcover

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Received the International Latino Book Award – for Best Bilingual Book. Also won The Americas Book Award, Bank Street Children's Library Book of the Year and Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year. *Talking to Mother Earth* was also selected for the "Lion and Unicorn Honor Book for Excellence in North American Poetry".

Summary: In this collection of poetry, Jorge Argueta shares the very core of his heritage through words taken from his Pipil Nahua Indian roots. Some poems bear the challenges of a boy raised in a rural village while being teased by his peers, while others are empowering with connection to the sounds and colors of nature's gifts from our very own Mother Earth. The strong bond with culture and family, along with nature's beauty resonate throughout this collection of free-verse poems.

WIDA level: High Beginning/Developing

<http://jorgeargueta.com/Jorge%20Arqueta/El%20Paso%20Times%20Review.html>

8. Argueta,J., (2007). *Alfredito flies home*. Toronto, Ontario: Greenwood

Press/House of Anansi Press. [ISBN 9-780-88899-585-8] hardcover

Age range: 4 to 9 years old

Americas Book Award

Summary: It's never easy going somewhere new, especially for Alfredito who has to leave his life in El Salvador behind, making a dangerous trek by foot to California with his family. After four years, his journey "back home" is built with excitement and fears, to travel by plane for the very first time, to visit friends and family in El Salvador for Christmas. The joys of reuniting/meeting some family members for the first time mixed with bittersweet sadness of his grandmother's passing while they were in the US are examples of the emotions that Alfredito experiences. This realistic fiction story is one that so many can connect with.

WIDA level: High Expanding/ Bridging

Elizabeth Schlessman, an elementary teacher uses the poetry of Jorge Argueta to help students express their feelings about leaving one country for another". From article that appeared on Rethinking Schools website, June 2010:
www.rethinkingschools.org/index.shtml

9. Argueta, J. (2007). *The best match*. Carmel, CA: Hampton-Brown. [ISBN 0-7362-2497-1]

Paperback

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Summary: Retold by Jorge Argueta, this charming Mayan folk tale finds Mama and Papa Mouse searching for a good husband for their daughter. Beginning their quest with Uj, the Moon, then continuing to ask Kin (the Sun), Tiokal (the Cloud), Ik (the wind) and Pak (the Wall), daughter finds her perfect match. You may be surprised to find out who was the greatest match of all!

WIDA level: Developing/Expanding

Teaching guide: <http://hbavenues.com/highpoint/library/pdf/hp.basics.tq16.pdf>

10. Argueta, J. (2009). *Sopa de frijoles~un poema para cocinar /Bean soup~ a cooking poem*.

Toronto, Ontario: Groundwood Press/House of Anansi Press. [ISBN 978-0-88899-881-1]

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

Selected to be part of the USBBY International Honor List and Junior Library Guild List

Summary: Once you have read through this free-verse poem, you will likely never just see boiling beans the same way again! Seeing the clean beans be thrown "into the pot's lake for a swim", the imagery and metaphoric adventure really takes off. As the flames "give the pot a hug", the water turns "brown the color of Mother Earth." The aromas, colors and taste all seem to come to life, as the reader is led through the steps of this delicious comfort food and staple of many families.

WIDA level: Beginning/ Developing

11. Argueta, J. (2010). *Arroz con leche~ un poema para cocinar/Rice Pudding~ a cooking poem*.

Toronto, Ontario: Groundwood Press/House of Anansi Press. [ISBN 978-0-88899-981-8]

Age range: 4 to 8 years old

2010 Best Children's Books: Celebrating Friends & Family for Young Readers & Listeners

Summary: Through a creative blending of ingredients and adventure, this poetic story carries the reader's senses through the process of the author's favorite rice pudding recipe. As the free-verse poem unfolds, the reader is led along the cooking process from gathering a cooking pot to the steam that "climbs deliciously to the ceiling" like "little chains of hearts and colored ribbons." This book comes full circle as families are encouraged to make this delicious favorite delicacy to enjoy together.

WIDA level: Developing

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

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



Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:

Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director

ncloud@ric.edu

Rhode Island College

600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Providence, RI 02908