

***Bilingual Children's Literature***  
***Organized by Language Version Format:***  
***A Representative Sampling of Books***

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**Single Language Books**

*Baseball in April and Other Stories/ Béisbol en abril y otros cuentos*, Gary Soto, Harcourt, ISBN 978-0-15-202567-0, Translated to Spanish by Enrique Mercado  
Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook [English edition]; Paperback [Spanish edition]  
Illustrations: none, except cover art  
Grade Level: Middle and Secondary Grades  
Reading Level: 5.1; Guided Reading Q  
Featured Latino Culture: Mexican  
Premise of the Book: Eleven short stories documenting the experiences of Hispanic youth living in California  
Interesting Feature: Insightful journey through the lives of Latino adolescents  
Genre: Fiction  
Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Booklist Editors' Choice, Horn Book Fanfare Selection, Judy Lopez Memorial Honor Book, Parenting Magazine's Reading Magic Award, John and Patricia Beatty Award

*Becoming Naomi León/Yo, Naomi León*, Pam Muñoz Ryan, Scholastic Book Service, ISBN 978-0-439-26997-1, Cover art by Raúl Colón, Translated to Spanish by Nuria Molinero  
Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Audiobook [English edition]; Paperback [Spanish edition]  
Illustrations: none, except cover art  
Grade Level: Middle  
Reading Level: 5.4  
Featured Latino Culture: Mexican  
Premise of the Book: Protagonist goes to Mexico to search for her father in the hopes of rekindling family relationships.  
Interesting Feature: Short chapters for an enjoyable, non-threatening read  
Genre: Fiction  
Awards: 2004 Parent's Choice Silver Honor Award; Book Sense Book of the Year Honor Book; ALA Schneider Family Book Award; ALA Notable Children's Book

*The Color of My Words/El color de mis palabras*, Lynn Joseph, Lectorum, ISBN 978-1-930332-75-1, Translated by Alberto Jiménez Rioja  
English Version available in *In Zone* Book Format (designed for ELLs), Hampton Brown; ISBN 0-7362-2805-5  
Format: Paperback, Audiobook

Illustrations: none, except cover art

Grade Level: Middle Grades

Reading Level: 5.5; Lexile 840

Featured Latino Culture: Dominican

Premise of the Book: Contains a social justice theme around speaking out and its consequences

Interesting Feature: Poems interspersed into the prose

Genre: Realistic Fiction

*The Dreamer/ El Soñador*, Pam Muñoz Ryan, Scholastic Book Service, ISBN 978-0-439-26970-4, Illustrations by Peter Sís, Translated to English by Iñigo Javaloyes

Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook [English edition]; Paperback [Spanish edition]

Illustrations: Stippling technique with green ink (the creation of a pattern simulating varying degrees of solidity or shading by using small dots)

Grade Level: Upper Elementary-Middle

Reading Level: 4.6, Guided Reading L

Featured Latino Culture: Chilean

Premise of the Book: Fictionalized biography of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda

Interesting Feature: Combined elements of biography, poetry, literary fiction, and illustrations

Genre: Biographical Fiction

Awards: 2011 Pura Belpré Award for Fiction

*How Tía Lola Came to (Visit) Stay/ De cómo tía Lola vino (de visita) a quedarse*, Originally published as *Cuando tía Lola vino de visita de quedarse*, Julia Alvarez, Dell Yearling, ISBN 978-0307707703, Translated to Spanish by Liliana Valenzuela

Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Audiobook [Spanish and English editions]

Illustrations: none, except cover art

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 4.8; Guided Reading R; DRA 40

Featured Latino Culture: Dominican

Premise of Book: Tía Lola visits her family members in Vermont and transforms their lives by reviving their Dominican traditions

Interesting Feature: Includes some English phrases to create an authentic Dominican American feel

Genre: Fiction

*Isla*, Arthur Dorros, Viking Penguin, ISBN 978-0-14-056541-6, Illustrated by Elisa Kleven (See under **English with Spanish Interspersed** for description)

*Tonight is Caraval/Por fin es carnaval*, Arthur Dorros, Picture Puffins, ISBN 978-0140554717, Illustrated[photographed textile work]by el Club de Madres Virgen de Carmen, Lima, Perú, Translated by Sandra Marulanda Dorros

Format: Hardcover, Paperback [Spanish & English edition]

Illustrations: Photographs of handmade *arpilleras* (colorful fabric stitched on burlap) from Peru

Grade Level: 4.1

Reading Level: Primary

Featured Latino Culture: Peruvian

Premise of Book: The story of a little boy's preparations for Carnaval

Interesting Feature: The colorful *arpilleras* accentuate the text; Includes photos of women making the *arpilleras*; Includes a pictorial glossary of Andean musical instruments

Genre: Fiction

*The Tortilla Factory/ La tortellería*, Gary Paulsen, Harcourt, ISBN 978-0-15-201698-2, Illustrated by Ruth Paulsen, Translated to Spanish by Gloria de Aragón Andújar

Format: Hardcover, Paperback [English and Spanish edition]

Illustrations: Paintings by Ruth Wright Paulsen

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 2.7

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of Book: The planting, harvesting, milling and cooking processes of tortilla making

Interesting feature: The supremely detailed painted illustrations as well as the rich descriptive language

Genre: Creative/poetic nonfiction

### **Dual Language Books**

*Arroz con Leche: Un poema para cocinar/Rice Pudding: A Cooking Poem*, Jorge Argueta, Groundwork Books, ISBN 978-0-888-79981-8, Illustrated by Fernando Vilela

Format: Hardcover; Dual Language, Spanish on top/English on the Bottom

Illustrations: Ink drawings incorporating collage, rubber stamps, and digital elements

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 3.0

Featured Latino Culture: Multiple countries represented; those that enjoy *arroz con leche*

Premise of the Book: A young boy's story of making arroz con leche with his family.

Genre: Realistic fiction

*Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day--Celebramos el día de los niños/ El día de los libros*, Pat Mora, HarperCollins, ISBN 978-0-06-128877, Illustrated by Rafael López

Format: Hardcover; Dual Language, English on top & left/ Spanish on bottom & right

Illustrations: Paintings influenced by magical symbolism

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 2.0

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of the Book: Mexico's annual celebration of reading for children including the various book celebrations that are a part of the festivities

Genre: Nonfiction

Awards: 2010 Pura Belpré Medal Winner for Illustrations

*The Last Doll/La última muñeca*, Diane Gonzales Bertrand, Arte Público Press, ISBN 978-1558852914, Illustrations by Anthony Acardo

Format: Hardcover, Paperback; Dual Language, English on top/Spanish on the Bottom

Illustrations: Watercolor drawings

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 4.2

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of the Book: A story about a young girl's quinceañera

Genre: Fiction

*The Lizard and the Sun/ La largartija y el sol*, Alma Flor Ada, Dragonfly Books, ISBN 978- 0-440-41531-2, Illustrated by Felipe Dávalos; English translation by Rosalma Zubizarreta

Format: Hardcover, Paperback; Dual Language, English on left/ Spanish on right

Illustrations: Drawings with cross-hatching

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 4.4, Lexile 580

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of the Book: Traditional Mexican folktale of a lizard that goes on a journey to find the sun in order to brighten and warm the world

Genre: Folklore; Fiction

Awards: Gold Medal, Folklore Category, NAPPA – National Parenting Publications Association

*My First Book of Proverbs/ Mi Primer Libro de Dichos*, Ralfka Gonzalez, Ana Ruiz, Children's Book Press, ISBN 978-0-89239-200-1, Introduction by Sandra Cisneros with Spanish translation by Liliana Valenzuela

Format: Hardcover, Paperback; Dual Language, Spanish on top/ English on bottom

Illustrations: Paintings with folklore influence

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 1.8

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of Book: A collection of Mexican *dichos* and their English equivalents

Genre: Proverbs; Fiction

Awards: 1995 National Parenting Publications Gold Award

*My Name is Gabito/Me llamo Gabito*, Monica Brown, Luna Rising, ISBN 978-0-87358-908-6, Illustrated by Raúl Colón

Format: Hardcover, Kindle; Dual Language, English on left/ Spanish on right

Illustrations: Watercolor drawings with crosshatching

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 4.8, Lexile 910

Featured Latino Culture: Colombian

Premise of the Book: Biographical account of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's childhood in Colombia to his life as a world-renown author

Genre: Biographical fiction

Awards: 2008 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book for Illustrations

*Sip, Slurp, Soup, Soup/Caldo, Caldo, Caldo*, Diane Gonzalez Betrand, Arte Público Press, ISBN Illustrated by Alex Pardo Delange, Translated by Julia Mercedes Castilla

Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook; Dual Language, English on top/ Spanish on bottom

Illustrations: Pen and ink; watercolors

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 3.1

Featured Latino Culture: Multiple countries represented through the inclusion of *caldo*-making traditions

Premise of the Book: Rhythmic text detailing one family's celebratory making and enjoying of *caldo*

Genre: Fiction

*The Storyteller's Candle/ La velita de los cuentos*, Lucia González, Lee & Low Books Inc., ISBN 978-0-89239-222-3, Illustrated by Lulu Delacre

Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook; Dual Language, English on right and top/Spanish on bottom and left

Illustrations: Layered oil washes and paper collage (using newsprint)

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 3.9, Lexile 730

Featured Latino Culture: Puerto Ricans living in New York

Premise of the Book: The effect of Pura Belpré's life and work on Puerto Rican immigrants living in New York in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: 2009 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book for Narrative; 2009 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book for Illustrations; Jane Adams Children's Book Award

### **English with Spanish Interspersed in the Text**

*I Love Saturdays y domingos*, Alma Flor Ada, Alladin Paperbacks, ISBN 978-0-689-87409-3, Illustrated by Elivia Savadier

Format: Hardcover, Paperback (English, Spanish, & Korean)

Illustrations: Watercolor drawings

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 3.1, DRA 28

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of the Book: Represents a bilingual child's reality with one set of Grandparents speaking English and the other speaking Spanish

Genre: Fiction

*Isla*, Arthur Dorros, Viking Penguin, ISBN 978-0-14-056505-8, Illustrated by Elisa Kleven

Format: Hardcover, Paperback [English edition with Spanish phrases]; Paperback [Spanish edition]

Illustrations: Paintings with collage technique

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 2.7; Lexile 410

Featured Latino Culture: Any Caribbean location with Hispanic heritage

Premise of Book: Cross-generational journey of a little girl and her *abuela* from New York City back to the island *abuela* grew up on

Genre: Fiction

*The Night the Moon Fell/La noche que se cayó la luna*, Pat Mora, Groundwood Books, ISBN 978-0-88899-938-2, Illustrated by Domi, Translated to Spanish by Groundwood Books

Format: Hardcover, Paperback (English, Spanish, & Korean)

Illustrations: Watercolor paintings/murals

Grade Level: Primary

Reading Level: 3.4

Featured Latino Culture: Mayan

Premise of the Book: Traditional Mopan Mayan myth behind the creation of the Milky Way

Genre: Folklore; Fiction

*Número Uno*, Alex & Arthur Dorros, Harry N. Abrams Inc. ISBN 978-0-8109-5764-0,

Illustrated by Susan Guevara

Format: Hardcover

Illustrations: Oil paints and graphite [*en plein air* method (painting outdoors)]

Grade Level: Primary Grades

Reading Level: 2.7

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican

Premise of the Book: Dueling brothers take part in a test devised by the townspeople to settle who is more important to their village

Genre: Fiction

### **English with Code Switching**

*Get ready for Gabi: A crazy missed-up Spanglish Day*, Marisa Montes, ISBN I 0-439-47519-8, Scholastic, Illustrated by Joe Cepeda

Format: Paperback

Illustrations: Black and White Line Drawings

Grade Level: Primary Grades

Reading Level: 3.9, DRA 40, Guided Reading Q

Featured Latino Culture: Multiple countries represented by the characters (Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Argentina)

Premise of the Book: Represents a bilingual child's reality speaking two languages-- sometimes together in the same sentence; expressing some information in one language and other information in the other

Genre: Comedy & Humor; Fiction