Books for Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month

Browse this rich collection of books. You'll meet writers, artists, musicians, and others who made a difference through their creativity and work. You'll also discover stories about families and everyday life in Hispanic communities, as well as books about joyful festivals and holidays.

*Adopted from Reading Rockets
https://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/books-hispanic-heritage-month

Alma and How She Got Her Name
DBC08652
BR022572
By: Juana Martinez-Neal
Genre: Fiction / Age Level: 3-6
Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela thought her name was too long. That is until her dad shares the history behind it. Alma discovers pride in the strong relatives after whom she is named.

Arrorró, Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games
BR017011
By: Lulu Delacre
Genre: Poetry/ Age Level: 3-6
A selection of nursery rhymes and games from different countries are presented in this book in both Spanish and English. Music appears with lyrics (again in both languages) at the end of this pleasing book.

Featherless = Desplumado
SBI02476
Herrera, Juan Felipe
Genre: Fiction
Although Tomasito's spina bifida keeps him in a wheelchair, where he often feels as confined as his flightless and featherless pet bird, he discovers that he can feel free when he is on the soccer field. Aunque la espina bífida de Tomasito le mantiene en una silla de ruedas, donde a menudo se siente limitado como su mascota una ave desplumada sin poder volar, descubre que él puede sentirse libre cuando está en el campo de fútbol.

My Name is Celia : : the life of Celia Cruz = Me llamo Celia : la vida de Celia Cruz
DBC14968
By: Monica Brown
Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 6-8
A bilingual portrait of the "Queen of Salsa" describes her childhood in Cuba, her musical career, and her move to the United States and explains how her music brought her native Cuba to the world.
imagen bilingúe de la "Reina de la Salsa" describe su infancia en Cuba, su carrera musical, y su movida a los Estados Unidos, y explica como su música llevó a su Cuba nativa al mundo.

Charro Claus and the Tejas Kid
DBC14562
By: Xavier Garza
Genre: Fiction/ For grades K-3
Edición bilingue en inglés y español. One Christmas Eve, Santa Claus asks his cousin Pancho to help him deliver toys to the boys and girls along the Texas-Mexico border, and when he agrees, Santa magically transforms him into Charro Claus. Bilingual: English and Spanish.

Chato's Kitchen
DB041971
By: Gary Soto
Genre: Fiction/ Age Level: 3-6
Chato and Novio Boy are the coolest cats in their East Los Angeles barrio. When a family of mice moves next door to Chato, he invites them to dinner. He's going to eat them for dinner, but the mice bring a friend along to surprise Chato and foil his plans.

Funny Bones : : Posada and his Day of the Dead calaveras
DB084945
Duncan Tonatiuh
Genre: Nonfiction; Biography
Describes the life and work of Mexican artist JoseÁE Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada (1852-1913). Known for his engravings of calaveras--skulls with skeletons depicted as performing common and festive activities--Posada's creations have become popular and synonymous with Mexico's Day of the Dead festival. Sibert Award.

Doña Flor
BR016047
By: Pat Mora
Illustrated by: Raul Colón
Genre: Fiction, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 3-6
Dona Flor has gigantic proportions and unusual skills such as understanding the language of plants. Eventually, her talents are appreciated by the villagers in this attractively illustrated, richly told original tale. Winner of Pura Belpré Award.

From the Bellybutton of the Moon and other Summer Poems / Del ombligo de la luna y otros poemas de verano
DB055041
Genre: Poetry/ Age Level: 6-9
The poet remembers summers growing up in Mexico in poems presented in both English and Spanish. Readers meet his family and join them in the everyday joys of the sunny season. Illustrations are as colorful and evocative as the words.

**Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English**
SBI02563
By: Alma Flor Ada
Genre: Poetry/ Age Level: 3-6
Using the alphabet as a pattern, paintings and brief poems explore rural life in Mexico presented first in Spanish and followed by English. From A to Z, brilliant illustrations and fluid poems evoke the plants, and more and the emotional impact on the lives of farm workers.

**Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez**
SBI02489
BR015027
By: Kathleen Krull
Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 6-9
As a young boy, Cesar Chavez grew up on an 80-acre ranch in Arizona in the midst of joyous family reunions. When his family had to leave Arizona, however, to work as migrant laborers in California, their lives were turned upside down. During these excruciating days and nights, Cesar struggled — but then found the resolve to one day help his fellow workers.

**I Love Saturdays y domingos**
DBC08741
By: Alma Flor Ada
Genre: Fiction/ Age Level: 3-6
A girl visits both sets of grandparents on weekends. On Saturdays, she speaks English with Grandpa and Grandma, while on Sundays, los domingos, she speaks Spanish with Abeulito and Abeulita. The format provides a glimpse at the subtle differences between cultures and highlights their similarities, one of which is each set of grandparents' love for their granddaughter.

**Just In Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book**
BR018045
By: Yuyi Morales
Genre: Fiction, Fantasy, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 6-9
Señor Calvera is back! This time, he is looking forward to Grandma Beetle's birthday party — but he can't figure out what gift to give her. He consults with Zelmiro the Ghost and chooses one gift for every letter of the alphabet: acordeón, bigotes, cosquillas (accordion, moustaches, and tickles). It isn't until he reaches the letter Z, however, that Señor Calvera finds the best gift of all for Grandma Beetle.
La Princesa and the Pea
DBC07053
BR022048
BRC01797
By: Susan Middleton Elya
Genre: Fiction, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 3-6
El príncipe knows this girl is the one for him, but, as usual, his mother doesn’t agree. The queen has a secret test in mind to see if this girl is really a princesa, but the prince might just have a sneaky plan, too.

Love to Mamá: A Tribute to Mothers
BR014015
By: Pat Mora
Genre: Fiction, Poetry/ Age Level: 6-9
Thirteen poems rejoice in Latina women, their diversity, and their roles.

Lucia the Luchadora
DB093712
By: Cynthia Leonor Garza
Genre: Fiction/ Age Level: 3-6
Lucía zips through the playground in her cape just like the boys, but when they tell her "girls can't be superheroes," suddenly she doesn't feel so mighty. That's when her beloved abuela reveals a dazzling secret.

Mamá Goose: A Latino Nursery Treasury
DB060627
By: Alma Flor Ada
Genre: Fiction, Poetry, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 0-3
This book is a collection of Spanish-language lullabies, finger games, nursery rhymes, jump-rope songs, riddles, birthday songs, and more. It compiles songs from different Spanish-speaking countries.

Once Upon a Time: Traditional Latin American Tales / Habia una vez: Cuentos tradicionales Latino Americanos
DB071639
By: Reuben Martinez
Genre: Fiction, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 6-9
Animals and people wise and foolish are presented in these tales retold. Their origins, from a range of Spanish-speaking countries including Argentina, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Spain, are retold and handsomely illustrated — just right for reading aloud.

Pelé: King of Soccer / Pele, El rey del futbol
BR019040
By: Monica Brown
Illustrated by: Rudy Gutiérrez
Did you know that as a boy, Pelé played soccer in bare feet with a grapefruit instead of a soccer ball? Monica Brown shares the inspirational story of the beloved soccer star's rise from humble beginnings to becoming El rey del fútbol.

Rafi and Rosi: Carnival!
DB064761
By: Lulu Delacre
Genre: Fiction/ Age Level: 6-9
It's time for Carnival! Three short stories in this Easy Reader present the adventures shared by Rafi and Rosi, charming and mischievous young tree frogs who are brother and sister, and live in Puerto Rico.

Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes
DB084807
By: Roseanne Thong
Genre: Poetry/ Age Level: 3-6
Circles, squares, triangles, ovals and stars are all around! A glossary of Spanish words concludes this engaging glimpse into Mexican culture.

Señor Cat's Romance and Other Favorite Stories from Latin America
DB046215
By: Lucía González
Illustrated by: Lulu Delacre
Genre: Fiction, Fantasy, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 6-9
Spanish words add flavor to these appealing folktales, cuentos favoritos, carefully illustrated to reflect their Latin American roots.

Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation
DB082429
BR020998
By: Duncan Tonatiuh
Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 6-9
Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a “Whites only” school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a successful lawsuit in federal court.

The Bossy Gallito / Bossy Gallito / El gallo de bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale
DB040244
By: Lucía González
Genre: Fiction, Fairy Tales and Folk Tales/ Age Level: 3-6
Travel with Bossy Rooster to his uncle’s wedding. Of course the road is not entirely smooth in this cumulative, handsomely illustrated tale from Cuba — and that’s when the fun begins!

**The Most Beautiful Place in the World**  
DB031581  
By: Ann Cameron  
Genre: Fiction/ Age Level: 6-9  
Now that Juan’s mother has left him with his grandmother, he shines shoes to earn a living. More than anything else, though, 7-year old Juan wants to learn to read and go to school.

**The Storyteller’s Candle**  
BR019004  
By: Lucía González  
Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 6-9  
This is the story of librarian Pura Belpré, told through the eyes of two young children who are introduced to the library and its treasures just before Christmas.

**Tito Puente, Mambo King / Tito Puente, Rey del Mambo**  
DBC14965  
By: Monica Brown  
Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 3-6  
Tito Puente was born to be a musician. He grew up to become the Mamba King to whose music people danced the mambo, rumba, and cha-cha.

**Turning Pages: My Life Story**  
DB094950  
By: Sonia Sotomayor  
Genre: Biography/ Age Level: 6-9  
Books and reading can be “magic potions that could fuel [young people] with the bravery of superheroes” and oh! so much more. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor shares her story revealing the power of books throughout.

**Under the Royal Palms: A Childhood in Cuba**  
DB049485  
By: Alma Flor Ada  
Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 9-12  
Reading Level: Independent Reader  
In writing about her childhood growing up in Camaguey, Cuba, Alma Flor Ada evokes all the senses. Readers will smell jasmine, coffee, and grandmother’s perfume. They will see the bats flying overhead and hear adults share stories.
Websites for Hispanic Heritage Month

- National Hispanic Heritage Month
  - Exhibits and Collections
  - Audio and Video
- Library of Congress-Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape
- Library of Congress-Hispanic American Veterans
- National Archives Hispanic Heritage
- National Park Service-Telling All American’s Stories-American Latino Heritage
- Smithsonian Latino Center