

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. Una

imagen bilingüe 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 llevo a su Cuba nativa al mundo.

Charro Claus and the Tejas Kid

DBC14562

By: Xavier Garza

Genre: Fiction/ For grades K-3

Edicion bilingue en ingles y espanol. 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 José 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 / Había 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

Genre: Nonfiction, Biography/ Age Level: 3-6

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](#)