

National Hispanic Heritage Month Resources for Teachers, Staff and Families

Every year, from mid-September to mid-October, Americans recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the culture, histories, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came to the country from Spanish-speaking countries in Europe and the Americas. The first celebration took place during one week in mid-September of 1968, with the timeframe chosen to honor independence day celebrations in many Spanish-speaking countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (all on September 15), Mexico (September 16), and Chile (September 18). In 1988, the celebration was expanded to last a month, from September 15-October 15 each year.

Springhurst Library Media Specialist Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert and Young Adult Librarian Alex Yeranossian to create this resource list to help your classes dive deeper into the contributions and culture of Latinx and Hispanic Americans.

Websites

Latinxs in Kid Lit: <https://latinosinkidlit.com/>

Library of Congress: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/for-teachers.html>

Public Libraries with Spanish Language Collections

Many public libraries in Westchester County have Spanish language collections for children. Here in the Rivertowns, there are small collections of Spanish language picture books in Dobbs Ferry and Hastings, while in Ardsley the collection is of a similar size but spans all ages. Irvington's collection was damaged by flooding and is currently very small but expanding. Tarrytown and Ossining have large Spanish language selections of fiction and nonfiction for all ages. City libraries like those in Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, and Mount Vernon are also good places to look. Many of the titles on this list are available in both Spanish and English -- please check the library catalog or call your library to see which they have.

Booklist

Below is a list of published books. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available. **Books in bold are new to the list this year.**

Picture Book Fiction

- *Across the Bay* by Carlos Aponte ●
- *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal ●●
- *Beauty Woke* by NoNieqa Ramos ●
- *Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border* by Mitali Perkins ●●
- *Carmela Full of Wishes* by Matt de la Peña ●●
- *Dora the Explorer* by various authors ●●
- *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *El Cucuy is Scared, Too!* by Donna Barba Higuero ●
- *Go, Diego, Go!* by various authors ●
- *I Wish You Knew* by Jackie Azua Kramer ●

- *Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor ●●
- *Looking for Bongo* by Eric Velasquez ●
- *Mango, Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina ●●
- *Maria Had a Little Llama* by Angela Dominguez ●
- *Marta! Big & Small* by Jen Arena ●
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero ●●
- *Octopus Stew* by Eric Velasquez ●
- ***Our Roof Is Blue* by Sara E. Echenique ●**
- *Paletero Man* by Lucky Diaz ●●
- *La Princesa and the Pea* by Susan Middleton Elya ●●
- *Rainbow Weaver* by Linda Elovitz Marshall ●
- *Rudas: Niño's Horrendous Hermanitos* by Yuyi Morales ●
- *Stella's Stellar Hair* by Yesenia Moises ●
- ***Tia Fortuna's New Home: A Jewish Cuban Journey* by Ruth Behar ●**
- *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat!* by Raúl the Third ●●
- *Viva Frida* by Yuyi Morales ●●
- *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez ●●
- *The Year We Learned to Fly* by Jacqueline Woodson ●●

Nonfiction Picture Books

- *Arelí Is a Dreamer : A True Story* by Arelí Morales ●
- *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales ●●
- *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras* by Duncan Tonatiuh ●●
- *A Girl named Rosita : The Story of Legendary Puerto Rican Performer Rita Moreno* by Anika Denise ●
- *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* by Kathleen Krull ●●
- ***Hispanic Heroes: Roberto Clemente* by Claudia Romo Edelman ●**
- ***Hispanic Heroes: Sylvia Rivera* by Claudia Romo Edelman ●**
- *I Am Frida Kahlo* by Brad Meltzer ●
- ***My Name is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz* by Monica Brown ●●**
- *Nacho's Nachos: The Story Behind the World's Favorite Snacks* by Sandra Nickel ●
- *Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People* by Monica Brown ●
- *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpre* by Anika A. Denise ●●
- *Selena: Queen of Tejano Music* by Silvia López ●
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh ●●
- *Sharuko: Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello* by Monica Brown ●
- *Turning Pages* by Sonia Sotomayor ●●
- *Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown ●●

Early Chapter Books

- ***Catalina Incognito* series by Jennifer Torres**
- *Definitely Dominguita* series by Terry Catasús Jennings ●
- ***Hello, Lola!* series by Keka Novales**
- *Juana and Lucas* by Juana Medina ●●
- *Lola Levine* series by Monica Brown ●●
- *Sofia Martinez* series by Jacqueline Jules ●●
- *Stella Diaz* series by Angela Dominguez ●●

Middle Grade Fiction

- *Before We Were Free* and other titles by Julia Alvarez ●●
- *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls* by Kaela Rivera ●●
- *Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows* series by Ryan Calejo ●●
- *Cuba in My Pocket* by Adrianna Cuevas ●

- *Each Tiny Spark* by Pablo Cartaya ●●
- *Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros ●●
- *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya ●●
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan ●●
- ***Falling Short* by Ernesto Cisneros ●●**
- *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez ●●
- *Forest World* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *How to Make Friends with the Sea* by Tanya Guerrero ●
- ***The Last Beekeeper* by Pablo Cartaya ●●**
- ***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera ●●**
- *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by Marjorie Agosin ●●
- ***Lion Island* by Margarita Engle ●●**
- *Lotería* by Karla Arenas Valenti ●
- *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar ●●
- *Mañanaland* by Pam Muñoz Ryan ●●
- *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya ●●
- *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina ●●
- *My Brigadista Year* by Katherine Paterson ●
- *90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis ●●
- *The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz ●●
- *The Other Half of Happy* by Rebecca Balcárel ●●
- *Paola Santiago and the Sanctuary of Shadows* by Tehlor Kay Meija ●●
- *Rooting for Rafael Rosales* by Kurtis Scarletta ●●
- *Sarai and the Meaning of Awesome* (and other books in the series) by Sarai Gonzalez and Monica Brown ●
- ***Shine on, Luz Véliz!* by Rebecca Balcárel ●●**
- *Sophia Acosta Makes a Scene* by Emma Otheguy ●
- *Stef Soto, Taco Queen* by Jennifer Torres ●●
- *Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh* by Uma Krishnaswami ●●
- *The Storm Runner* by Jennifer C. Cervantes ●●
- *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* by Adrianna Cuevas ●●
- *They Call Me Güero* by David Bowles ●●
- *Tumble* by Celia C. Perez ●●

Middle Grade Graphic Books

- *Big Apple Diaries* by Alyssa Bermudez ●
- *Frizzy* by Clarabel Ortega ●●
- *Invisible* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez ●●
- *Lowriders in Space* by Cathy Camper ●
- *Miss Quinces* by Kat Fajardo ●●
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson ●●

Middle Grade Nonfiction

- *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor ●●
- *Bravo! Poems about Amazing Hispanics* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *The Champion's Game* by Saul Ramirez & John Seidlitz ●
- *My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero ●●
- *Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist* by Sylvia Acevedo ●●
- *Who Was the Voice of the People? Cesar Chavez: A Who HQ Graphic Novel* by Terry Blas ●
- *Yes! We Are Latinos: Poems and Prose about the Latino Experience* by Alma Ada Flor & F. Isabel Campoy ●●

YA Fiction

- ***An Appetite for Miracles* by Laekan Zea Kemp** ●●
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz ●●
- *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas ●●
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo ●●
- *The Education of Margot Sanchez* by Lilliam Rivera ●●
- *Furia* by Yamile Saied Mendez ●●
- *The Go-Between* by Veronica Chambers ●
- *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez ●●
- *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez ●●
- ***The Inheritance of Orquidea Divina* by Zoraida Cordova** ●●
- *Jazz Owls* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabby Rivera ●●
- ***The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School* by Sonora Reyes** ●●
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ●●
- *Sanctuary* by Paola Mendoza ●●
- *The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle ●●
- ***What's Coming to Me* by Francesca Padilla** ●●
- ***When We Make It* by Elizabet Velasquez** ●●
- *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo ●●

YA Nonfiction

- ***Abuela, Don't Forget Me* by Rex Ogle** ●●
- *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario ●●

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