



## Relevant Literature on Latino/a Culture and Language Middle School and High School

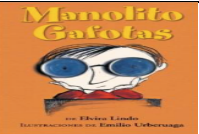

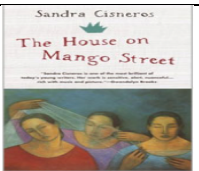

**This list has been last updated in June 2016\***

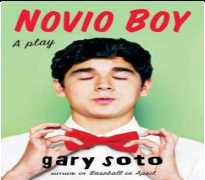
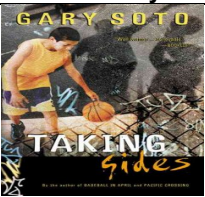
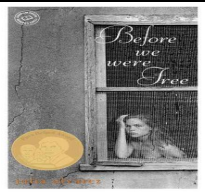
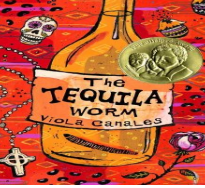
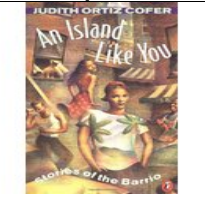
This list contains a variety of children's literature covering a wide array of themes. These books were selected because the characters in the stories reflect the diversity of the Latino/a community. These books are relevant for Latino/a students, and any other student in middle and high schools. Some of the books are bilingual in Spanish and English and can be used in bilingual classrooms during the literacy block or in ESL settings to provide students with home language support. Other books are available entirely in Spanish and can be used primarily during the home language arts time block. Also, some books are either entirely in English, or in English but with some words in Spanish, which can be utilized primarily during the English language portion of the bilingual class.


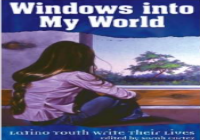
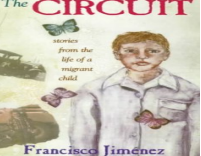
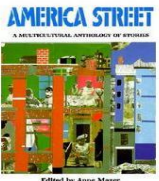
The books are organized by grade level and then by author for ease of navigation. The list also includes information on topics and multicultural issues, language(s) of the book, and a description taken from the webpages of Scholastic Book Wizard, La Casa Azul Bookstore, Lee & Low Books, among others.

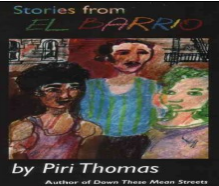
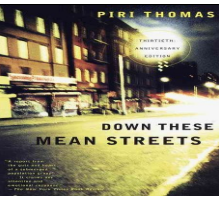
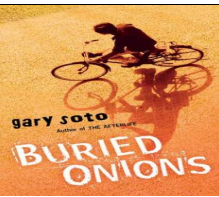
*(\* We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this updated list: Laura Ascenzi-Moreno, Gladys Aponte, Andy Brown, Kathryn Carpenter, Cecilia, Espinosa, Sarah Hesson, Leo Smith, Cristian Solorza, Heather Woodley, and Hulda Yau.*

Title	Author	Grade	Description	Topics & Multicultural Issues	Language
 <p><b>Esperanza Rising</b></p>	Pam Muñoz Ryan	6-7 (but can also be for grades 3-5)	Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico — she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances.	Great Depression, Farm and Ranch Life	English with some words in Spanish  Also available in Spanish
 <p><b>La jaula del unicornio</b></p>	Hilda Perera	6-8	An immigrant from Central America finds hope and security as a housekeeper in the home of a prosperous family in Miami. Encouraged by her employer, the woman sends for the daughter she has left behind. Once they are together again, she discovers that she must vie with her employer for the affections of her little daughter.	Immigration, Feminism, Gender Expectations, Racism	Spanish

 <p><b>Manolito Gafotas</b></p>	Elvira Lindo	6-12	From the book: "Manolito Gafotas is one of the most famous characters in the "worldwide world" These kid from Carabanchel is unique, magnificent...Along with him, his brother the Imbecile, and his grandfather, Nicolas, and of course the whole gang, we discover, through his glasses, a vision of the world full of humor"	Relationships, poverty, friendships	Spanish
 <p><b>When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir</b></p>	Esmeralda Santiago	6-12	Esmeralda Santiago's story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where her childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs in the mango groves at night, the taste of the delectable sausage called <i>morcilla</i> , and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. As she enters school we see the clash, both hilarious and fierce, of Puerto Rican and Yankee culture. When her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity.	Biography, Memoir, Identity	English with some words in Spanish  Available in Spanish
 <p><b>The House on Mango Street</b></p>	Sandra Cisneros	6-12	Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, The House on Mango Street tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong — not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become.	Adolescent Issues, Coming of Age, Mexican and Mexican American Women's History and Experience	English with some words in Spanish  Also available in Spanish
 <p><b>Baseball in April and Other Stories/ Béisbol en Abril</b></p>	Gary Soto	7-9	This collection of eleven short stories focuses on the everyday adventures of Latino young people growing up in Fresno, California.	Latino/a Experiences, Growing up	English with some words in Spanish  Also available in Spanish

 <p><b>Novio Boy</b> A play gary soto author of <i>Maricopa Road</i></p>	Gary Soto	7-9	Rudy, a Mexican-American boy in the ninth grade, asks out an older girl for an expensive first date. He is very surprised when all of the people who gave him advice and financial support show up at the restaurant during the date.	Relationships & Families (Family Members, Friends, Romantic Relationships), Character/Virtues (Manners & Conduct)	English
 <p><b>TAKING SIDES</b> GARY SOTO</p>	Gary Soto	7-9	Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.	Relationships & Families (Friends), Character/Virtues (Loyalty), Popular Culture (Sports), American, Hispanic, Integrated/Multi-ethnic Settings	English
 <p><b>Before we were Free</b></p>	Julia Alvarez	7-9	In the midst of a fight for liberation in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita de la Torre learns about love, family, and the cost of being able to fly free.	Politics, Dictatorship, Relationships, Growing up	Translanguage d. English with some words in Spanish  Also available in Spanish
 <p><b>The Tequila Worm</b> VIOLA CANALES</p>	Viola Canales	7-9	Living with her Mexican-American family in the blue-collar town of McAllen, Texas, Sofia is content with the rich and culturally stimulating life she has always lived, but when Sofia is told that she is the recipient of a special scholarship to an elite boarding school far away, Sofia is both excited and fearful of all the unknowns that lie ahead.	Kids & Teens, Fiction & Literature, Family & Social Issues, School	English with some words in Spanish  Also available in Spanish
 <p><b>An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio</b> JUDITH ORTIZ COFER</p>	Judith Ortiz Cofer	7 and Up	A collection of stories captures the lives of different teenagers growing up in the barrio, including Rita, who goes to live with her grandparents in Puerto Rico; Luis, who spends his days working at his father's junkyard; and Sandra, who tries to rediscover her natural Latino beauty.	Latino identity. Family. Cultural differences. Puerto Rican community.	English. Also available in Spanish.

 <p><b>Mi querido Rafa</b></p>	<p>Rolando Hinojosa</p>	<p>7 and Up</p>	<p>Welcome to Klail City, in Belken County, along the Mexico border in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. In the weeks leading up to the Democratic primary, Jehu Malacara chronicles the political rabble-rousing of Klail City's wealthiest citizens in letters to his cousin Rafe Buenrostro. Led by Arnold "Noddy" Perkins, the who's who of Belken County create a complex web of relationships. Wrangling bank loans, club memberships, and local politics, Perkins dominates the political and economic landscape of the community.</p>	<p>Politics, Economics, relationships. Cultural differences. Generational differences.</p>	<p>English. Translanguage d. English and Spanish. Also Available in Spanish.</p>
 <p><b>Windows into My World: Latino Youth Write Their Lives</b></p>	<p>Sarah Cortez (Ed.)</p>	<p>9-12</p>	<p>These short essays written by young men and women from various Latino backgrounds - Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Salvadoran - reflect the diversity of growing up Latino in the United States. Whether from a gay or straight, urban or rural, recent immigrant or third-generation perspective, these illuminating pieces of memoir shine a light into the lives of young Hispanic adults."</p>	<p>Family, Identity, Separation, Death, Pride</p>	<p>English with some words in Spanish</p>
 <p><b>The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child</b></p>	<p>Francisco Jimenez</p>	<p>9-12</p>	<p>Based on the author's life, this collection of stories follows a boy who moves from job to job with his migrant family. These stories describe their struggles as they try to exist with no home, little food, and the threat of deportation.</p>	<p>Immigration / Emigration, Social Issues &amp; Conditions, Family Members, Family &amp; Social Structures, School Life, Courage &amp; Survival, Self-Esteem &amp; Respect</p>	<p>English Available in Spanish</p>
 <p><b>America Street: A Multicultural Anthology of Stories</b></p>	<p>Anne Mazer (Ed.)</p>	<p>9-12</p>	<p>This collection of fourteen stories shows several slices of American life through the past century. The characters, many in their teens, represent a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds.</p>	<p>Kids &amp; Teens, Fiction &amp; Literature, Short Stories</p>	<p>English</p>

 <p><b>Stories from El Barrio</b> by Piri Thomas Author of Down These Mean Streets</p>	Piri Thomas	9-12	Piri Thomas gives readers of all ages a vivid slice of the life in El Barrio--a place where people face their problems with energy, ingenuity and love. He draws vivid stories from his past experiences and makes us feel what it means to be poor and proud and generous; to be streetwise and full of bravado but frightened, too; to struggle to go straight; to be ashamed of being ashamed; to dream. Speaking in the voice of the streets and from his heart, Piri captures the spirit, the laughter and the hope of his people.	Character and Values, Friends and Friendship	English with some words in Spanish
 <p><b>Down These Mean Streets</b> Piri Thomas</p>	Piri Thomas	9-12	The author recalls his early experiences with poverty and discrimination, his involvement with drugs and gangs, and his prison sentence for armed robbery, which led to his rehabilitation and work with street gangs and drug addicts.	Character and Values, Culture and Diversity, Friends and Friendship	English
 <p><b>Buried Onions</b> gary soto Author of The Saturday</p>	Gary Soto	10-12	Eddie's father, two uncles, and best friend are all dead, and it's a struggle for him not to end up the same way. Violence makes Fresno wallow in tears, as if a huge onion were buried beneath the city. Making an effort to walk a straight line despite constant temptations and frustrations, Eddie searches for answers--and discovers that his closest friends may actually be his worst enemies.	Kids & Teens, Fiction & Literature, Family & Social Issues, Abuse & Violence	English with words in Spanish; includes readers guide and glossary for words in Spanish