

# Bibliography of Selected Culturally Relevant Latinx Children's Literature



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*A Perfect Season for Dreaming / Un tiempo perfecto para soñar* written by Benjamin Alire Sáenz and illustrated by Esau Andrade Valencia. Cinco Punto Press, 2008. Grades 1 - 4

Ninety-two-year-old Octavio Rivera is a beautiful dreamer. And lately he has been visited by some very interesting dreams—dreams about piñatas that spill their treasures before him, revealing kissing turtles, winged pigs, hitchhiking armadillos and many more fantastic things! Octavio doesn't tell anyone about his dreams except his young granddaughter Regina because she alone understands beautiful and fantastic dreams. On the ninth afternoon Octavio prepares for his siesta hoping to be blessed with one last lovely dream. That afternoon he dreams of a sky full of sweet and perfect hummingbirds calling his name over and over again...

*Talking with Mother Earth / Hablando con madre tierra* written by Jorge Argueta and illustrated by Lucía Angela Pérez. Greenwood Books, 2006. Grades 3 +

Raw, honest and powerful, these moving bilingual poems by noted Salvadoran poet Jorge Argueta explore a young native boy's connection to Mother Earth and how he is healed from the terrible wounds of racism he has endured. Tetl has learned from his grandmother about the spirituality of his ancestors, about how they viewed the earth as alive with sacred meaning. This helps him move from doubt and fear, created by the taunts of other children, to self-acceptance and a discovery of his love for nature. Mountains, wind, corn and stones all speak to Tetl, almost seeming to vibrate with life. He feels deep roots in them and, through them, he learns to speak and sing. They reveal his Nahuatl self and he realizes that he is special, beautiful and sacred. These gripping poems have something to teach us all, perhaps especially those who have been either intentionally or casually cruel or racist, as well as those who have been the victims of racism.

*Tamalitos A Cooking Poem / Un poema para cocinar* written by Jorge Argueta and illustrated by Domi . Greenwood Books, 2013. Grades 1 - 3

In this bilingual cooking poem for young children, Jorge Argueta encourages more creativity and fun in the kitchen as he describes how to make tamalitos from corn masa and cheese, wrapped in cornhusks. The book opens with an homage to corn -- white, yellow, blue, purple, red and black. In Maya mythology the first men and women are even said to be made of corn. It has been an important food for people in Central America for centuries, and one of the most delicious things you can make using corn masa and husks are tamalitos, or little tamales. In simple poetic language, Argueta shows young cooks how to mix and knead the dough before dropping a spoonful into a cornhusk, wrapping it up and then steaming the little package. He once again makes cooking a full sensory experience, including beating on a pot like a drum, dancing the corn dance, delighting in the smell of corn masa ... And at the end, he suggests inviting the whole family to come and enjoy the delicious tamalitos "made of corn with love." Domi's vivid paintings, featuring a sister and her little brother making tamalitos together, are a perfect accompaniment to the colorful text.

*Guacamole: A Cooking Poem / Un poema para cocinar* written by Jorge Argueta and illustrated by Margarita Sada. Greenwood Books, 2012. Grades 1 - 3

Guacamole originated in Mexico with the Aztecs and has long been popular in North America, especially in recent years due to the many health benefits of avocados. This version of the recipe is easy to make, calling for just avocados, limes, cilantro and salt. A little girl dons her apron, singing and dancing around the kitchen as she shows us what to do. Poet Jorge Argueta sees beauty, magic and fun in everything

around him — avocados are like green precious stones, salt falls like rain, cilantro looks like a little tree and the spoon that scoops the avocado from its skin is like a tractor. As in all the titles in this series, Guacamole conveys the pleasure of making something delicious to eat for people you really love. A great book for families to enjoy together.

*Joelito's Big Decision / La gran decisión de Joelito* written by Ann Berlak and illustrated by Daniel Camacho. Hardball Press, 2015. Grades 2 - 4

Ten-year-old Joelito learns about the struggle for economic justice as he heads toward the door of MacMann's Burger Restaurant for his regular Friday-night family dinner. There he finds his best friend standing outside MacMann's with his parents protesting for higher wages. Joelito has to choose between a juicy burger and standing with his friend.

*César ¡Sí, Se Puede! / Yes, We Can!* written by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand and illustrated by David Díaz. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Grades 4 - 7

Born in 1927 in Yuma, Arizona, César Chavez lived the hard-scrabble life of a migrant worker during the Depression. Although his mother wanted him to get an education, César left school after eighth grade to work. He grew to be a charismatic leader and founded the National Farm Workers Association, an organization that fought for basic rights for farm workers. In powerful poems and dramatic stylized illustrations, Carmen T. Bernier-Grand and David Díaz pay tribute to Chavez's legacy helping migrant workers improve their lives by doing things by themselves for themselves.

*Maya's Blanket / La manta de Maya* written by Monica Brown and illustrated by David Díaz. Lee & Loo Books, 2015. Grades 1 - 3

Little Maya has a special blanket that Grandma stitched with her own two hands. As Maya grows, her blanket becomes worn and frayed, so with Grandma's help, Maya makes it into a dress. Over time the dress is made into a skirt, a shawl, a scarf, a hair ribbon, and finally, a bookmark. Each item has special, magical, meaning for Maya; it animates her adventures, protects her, or helps her in some way. But when Maya loses her bookmark, she preserves her memories by creating a book about her adventures and love of these items. When Maya grows up, she shares her book *Maya's Blanket/La manta de Maya* with her own little daughter while snuggled under her own special blanket. Inspired by the traditional Yiddish folk song *Hob Ikh Mir a Mantl* ( I Had a Little Coat ), this delightful story puts a child-focused, Latino spin on the tale of an item that is made into smaller and smaller items. *Maya's Blanket/La manta de Maya* charmingly brings to life this celebration creativity, recycling, and enduring family love.

*Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People* written by Monica Brown and illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt and Company, 2011. Grades 1 - 3

Once there was a little boy named Neftalí who loved wild things wildly and quiet things quietly. From the moment he could talk, he surrounded himself with words. Neftalí discovered the magic between the pages of books. When he was sixteen, he began publishing his poems as Pablo Neruda. Pablo wrote poems about the things he loved—things made by his friends in the café, things found at the marketplace, and things he saw in nature. He wrote about the people of Chile and their stories of struggle. Because above all things and above all words, Pablo Neruda loved people.

*Marisol McDonald and the Clash Bash / Marisol McDonald y la fiesta sin igual* written by Monica Brown and illustrated by Sara Palacios. Children's Book Press, 2013. Grades PreK - 2

Marisol is turning eight, and it's time to plan a birthday party that will be fabulous, marvelous, and divine. She also hopes that Abuelita, who lives far away in Peru, will be able to come to the celebration. At the

party store, Marisol can't decide what kind of party to have. Nothing seems right for soccer, pirate, princess, unicorn-loving Marisol. Finally she comes up with just the right idea, and when her friends arrive for her Clash Bash birthday, a big surprise awaits. But in a heartwarming turn of events, Marisol gets the biggest surprise of all a visit from Abuelita via computer. In this delightful story told in English and Spanish, author Monica Brown and illustrator Sara Palacios once again bring the irrepressible Marisol McDonald to life. With her bright red hair, golden brown skin, mismatched outfits, and endearing individuality, this free-spirited Peruvian-Scottish-American girl is headed straight into the hearts of young readers everywhere.

*Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* written by Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by Leslie Staub. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015. Grades 2 - 5

After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in jail, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore on cassette tape. Moved by her mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good. With stirring illustrations, this tender tale shows the human side of immigration and imprisonment—and shows how every child has the power to make a difference.

*Eight Days: A Story of Haiti* written by Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by Alix Delinois. Orchard Books, 2010. Grades 2 - 5

Hope comes alive in this heartfelt and deeply resonating story. While Junior is trapped for 8 days beneath his collapsed house after an earthquake, he uses his imagination for comfort. Drawing on beautiful, everyday-life memories, Junior paints a sparkling picture of Haiti for each of those days—flying kites with his best friend or racing his sister around St. Marc's Square—helping him through the tragedy until he is finally rescued. Love and hope dance across each page—granting us a way to talk about resilience as a family, a classroom, or a friend.

*The Sky Painter* written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Aliona Bereghici. Two Lions, 2015. Grades K - 3

Louis loves to watch birds. He takes care of injured birds and studies how they look and how they move. His father wants him to become an engineer, but Louis dreams of being a bird artist. To achieve this dream, he must practice, practice, practice. He learns from the art of John James Audubon. But as Louis grows up, he begins to draw and paint living, flying birds in their natural habitats. Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874–1927) is now known as the father of modern bird art. He traveled with many scientific expeditions all over the world. His best-known works—paintings for habitat exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History in New York—are still beloved by visitors today. His art helped to encourage wildlife conservation, inspiring people to celebrate and protect the world of wings. Poems by Newbery Honor-winning author Margarita Engle and illustrations by Aliona Bereghici capture the life of Louis Fuertes and the deep sense of wonder that he felt when he painted the sky.

*Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael López. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. Grades 1 - 4

Girls cannot be drummers. Long ago on an island filled with music, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream. Inspired by the childhood of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba's

traditional taboo against female drummers, *Drum Dream Girl* tells an inspiring true story for dreamers everywhere.

*Día de los Muertos* written by Roseanne Greenfield Thong and illustrated by Carles Ballesteros. Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. Grades PreK - 2

It's Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and children throughout the pueblo, or town, are getting ready to celebrate! They decorate with colored streamers, calaveras, or sugar skulls, and pan de muertos, or bread of the dead. There are altars draped in cloth and covered in marigolds and twinkling candles. Music fills the streets. Join the fun and festivities, learn about a different cultural tradition, and brush up on your Spanish vocabulary, as the town honors their dearly departed in a traditional, time-honored style.

*'Twas Nochebuena: A Christmas Story in English and Spanish* written by Roseanne Greenfield Thong and illustrated by Sara Palacios. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2014. Grades PreK - 2

'Twas Nochebuena and all through our casa, every creature was kneading tamale masa...It's Christmas Eve, and you're invited to a Nochebuena celebration! Follow a family as they prepare to host a night filled with laughter, love, and Latino tradition. Make tasty tamales and hang colorful adornos (decorations) on the walls. Gather to sing festive canciones (songs) while sipping champurrado (hot chocolate). After the midnight feast has been served and the last gifts have been unwrapped, it's time to cheer, "Feliz Navidad and to all a good night!" Savor the magic of Nochebuena with a holiday tale you'll want to read again and again.

*Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes* written by Roseanne Greenfield Thong and illustrated by John Parra. Chronicle Books, 2013. Grades PreK - 2

In this lively picture book, children discover a world of shapes all around them: rectangles are ice-cream carts and stone metates, triangles are slices of watermelon and quesadillas. Many of the featured objects are Latino in origin, and all are universal in appeal. With rich, boisterous illustrations, a fun-to-read rhyming text, and an informative glossary, this playful concept book will reinforce the shapes found in every child's day!

*Drummer Boy of John John* written by Mark Greenwood and illustrated by Frané Lessac. Lee & Low Books, 2012. Grades 1 - 4

Carnival is coming, and the villagers of John John, Trinidad, are getting ready to jump up and celebrate with music, dancing, and a parade. Best of all, the Roti King has promised free rotis tasty fried pancakes filled with chicken, herbs, and spices for the best band in the parade. Young Winston dreams of feasting on those delicious rotis. But there's a problem: he's not in a band! Pondering his predicament as he wanders through the village junkyard, Winston makes a curious musical discovery that may be just the ticket to realizing his dream. With ingenuity and the help of his friends, Winston takes on the Carnival bands, drumming his way to victory and to the Roti King's prized treat. Musical text and sun-drenched paintings joyously transport readers to the Caribbean, and to this exuberant story inspired by the early life of Winston Spree Simon, a pioneer in the development of the steel drum.

*Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* written by Juan Felip Herrera and illustrated by Raúl Colón. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014. Grades 4-8

This visually stunning book showcases twenty Hispanic and Latino American men and women who have made outstanding contributions to the arts, politics, science, humanitarianism, and athletics. Gorgeous portraits complement sparkling biographies of Cesar Chavez, Sonia Sotomayor, Ellen Ochoa, Roberto

Clemente, and many more. Complete with timelines and famous quotes, this tome is a magnificent homage to those who have shaped our nation.

*A Coyote Columbus Story* written by Thomas King and illustrated by William Kent Monkman. Groundwood Books, 1992. PreK +

A trickster named Coyote rules her world, until a funny-looking stranger named Columbus changes her plans. Unimpressed by the wealth of moose, turtles, and beavers in Coyote's land, he'd rather figure out how to hunt human beings to sell back in Spain. Thomas King uses a bag of literary tricks to shatter the stereotypes surrounding Columbus's voyages. In doing so, he invites children to laugh with him at the crazy antics of Coyote, who unwittingly allows Columbus to engineer the downfall of his human friends. William Kent Monkman's vibrant illustrations perfectly complement this amusing story with a message.

*Dalia's Wondrous Hair / El cabello maravilloso de Dalia* written by Laura Lacámara and illustrated by Laura Lacámara. Piñata Books, 2014. Grades K -2

One night, while Dalia slept safely wrapped in her mother's cool silken sheets, her hair grew and grew. By the time the rooster crowed, her hair had "grown straight up to the sky, tall and thick as a Cuban royal palm tree." Her mother was amazed, and wondered what her daughter would do with her wondrous hair. As Dalia looked at the flowers blooming in the garden, an idea sprouted inside her. She decorated her hair with leaves from the forest and mud from the marsh. Her mother was puzzled and could not imagine what she was. "Are you a leaf-crustud mud-tree?" she guessed incorrectly. That night, while Dalia slept safely cocooned in her mama's sheets, something stirred and unfolded. When the rooster crowed, the girl ran outside and everyone watched in awe as she carefully unwrapped her towering hair. Could it be? Is Dalia a . . . blossoming butterfly tree?!? In this whimsical bilingual picture book, Dalia's hair becomes a magical force of nature, a life-giving cocoon. Author and illustrator Laura Lacámara once again delights children ages 4 to 9 with her vibrant illustrations and an imaginative story about a girl's fanciful encounters with nature. Bonus features include a guide for how to create your own butterfly garden at home, as well as a bilingual glossary of select plant and animal species native to the island of Cuba.

*Little Chanclas* written by José Lozano and illustrated by José Lozano. Cinco Punto Press, 2015. Grades K -2

A bilingual tale about Little Lilly Lujan who loves her chanclas (flip-flops) going slippety-slappety and flippity-flop. In fact, Lilly refuses any footwear except her favorite pair of flip-flops. "Why does Lilly love her chanclas so much?" her family cries. Lilly doesn't listen. That's why her family nicknames her "Little Chanclas." At baptisms, barbecues, quinceñeras, and picnics, you can hear Little Chanclas going slippety-slap and flippity-flop. Then one day Lilly dances a little too much at a fiesta, her chanclas come apart, a pit bull chews up the remains, and there is no more flip for her flop! Little Chanclas is inconsolable. Crisis ensues as she rejects shoe after shoe. But then a miracle happens. Lilly puts on a pair of soccer shoes. She's a natural. She goes clickety-click. She scores a goal. She's a star!

*A Gift for Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead / Un regalo para abuelita: En celebración del Día de los Muertos* written by Nancy Luenn and illustrated by Robert Chapman. Rising Moon, 1998. Grades K - 3

This affectionate picture book reveals Rosita's sense of loss when her grandmother dies, and how the family works together on the Day of the Dead to restore the healing power of remembrance.

*Mango, Abuela, and Me* written by Meg Medina and illustrated by Angela Dominguez. Candlewick Press, 2015. Grades K -3

Mia's abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. The night she arrives, Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela before they go to sleep and

discovers that Abuela can't read the words inside. So while they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English ("Dough. Masa"), and Mia learns some Spanish too, but it's still hard for Abuela to learn the words she needs to tell Mia all her stories. Then Mia sees a parrot in the pet-shop window and has the perfect idea for how to help them all communicate a little better. An endearing tale from an award-winning duo that speaks loud and clear about learning new things and the love that bonds family members.

*Gracias / Thanks* written by Pat Mora and illustrated by John Parra. Lee & Low Books, 2009. Grades K -2

In a series of poetic sentences, a young boy (biracial Mexican/Caucasian) tells about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful. Come share the joy, and think about all the things for which you can say, ¡Gracias! Thanks!

*Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book* written by Yuyi Morales and illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Chronicle Books, 2003. Grades K -3

This original trickster tale, with its vivacious illustrations and dynamic read-aloud text, is at once a spirited tribute to the rich traditions of Mexican culture and a perfect introduction to counting in both English and Spanish.

*Niño Wrestles the World* written by Yuyi Morales and illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Roaring Book Press, 2013. Grades K -2

Señoras y señores, put your hands together for the fantastic, spectacular, one of a kind . . . Niño! Fwap! Slish! Bloop! Crunch! He takes down his competition in a single move! No opponent is too big a challenge for the cunning skills of Niño—popsicle eater, toy lover, somersault expert, and world champion lucha libre competitor! Niño Wrestles the World is in English with Spanish vocabulary, and is a fun, colorful story about a boy wrestling with imaginary monsters (including an Olmec Head and La Llorona) and adversaries like his younger sisters. This is a joyful picture book about imagination, play, and siblings. Award-winning author and illustrator Yuyi Morales is the author of Caldecott Honor and Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Medal-winning *Viva Frida*, stunning bilingual bedtime story *Little Night/Nochecita*, *Rudas: Niño's Horrendous Hermanitas*, Pura Belpré Honor Book (Narrative) *Just In Case: A Trickster Tale* and Spanish Alphabet Book, and other picture books for young readers. She also illustrated *Thunder Boy Jr.*, written by Sherman Alexie, and Pura Belpré (Illustration) Medal and Pura Belpré (Narrative) Honor book *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*, written by Marisa Montes.

*Napí* written by Antonio Ramírez and illustrated by Domi . Greenwood Books, 2004. Grades K -2

Napí is a young Mazateca girl who lives with her family in a little village on the bank of a river in the state of Oaxaca in Mexico. Each afternoon the family sits beneath the shade of a huge ceiba tree and listens to the grandfather's stories. As Napí listens, dreamily, the afternoons take on different colors in her imagination – orange, purple, violet and green. She finds nighttime along the river just as beautiful as the trees fill with white herons settling on their branches. The ceiba tree sends Napí dreams every night, and in her favorite one, she becomes a heron, gliding freely along the river. Domi's vibrant palette and magical illustrations are a perfect complement to this imaginative story.

*Parrots Over Puerto Rico* written by Susan Roth and illustrated by Cindy Trumbore. Lee & Low Books, 2013. Grades K -2

Above the treetops of Puerto Rico flies a flock of parrots as green as their island home. . . . These are Puerto Rican parrots. They lived on this island for millions of years, and then they nearly vanished from the earth forever. Puerto Rican parrots, once abundant, came perilously close to extinction in the 1960s due to centuries of foreign exploration and occupation, development, and habitat destruction. In this

compelling book, Roth and Trumbore recount the efforts of the scientists of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program to save the parrots and ensure their future. Woven into the parrots story is a brief history of Puerto Rico itself, from before the first human settlers to the present day. With striking collage illustrations, a unique format, and engaging storytelling, *Parrots Over Puerto Rico* invites readers to witness the amazing recovery efforts that have enabled Puerto Rican parrots to fly over their island once again."

*Anna Carries Water* written by Oliver Senior and illustrated by Laura James. Tradewind Books, 2013. Grades PreK - 2

Anna fetches water from the spring every day, but she can't carry it on her head like her older brothers and sisters can. In this charming and poetic family story set in Jamaica, Commonwealth Prize-winning author Olive Senior shows young readers the power of determination, as Anna achieves her goal and overcomes her fear.

*That's Not Fair! Emma Tenayuca's Struggle for Justice- / ¡No Es Justo! La lucha de Emma Tenayuca por la justicia* written by Carmen Tafolla and illustrated by Terry Ybáñez. San Antonio Texas, 2008. Grades 2 - 6

A vivid depiction of the early injustices encountered by a young Mexican-American girl in San Antonio in the 1920's, this book tells the true story of Emma Tenayuca. Emma learns to care deeply about poverty and hunger during a time when many Mexican Americans were starving to death and working unreasonably long hours at slave wages in the city's pecan-shelling factories. Through astute perception, caring, and personal action, Emma begins to get involved, and eventually, at the age of 21, leads 12,000 workers in the first significant historical action in the Mexican-American struggle for justice. Emma Tenayuca's story serves as a model for young and old alike about courage, compassion, and the role everyone can play in making the world more fair.

*What Can You do with a Rebozo? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con un rebozo?* written by Carmen Tafolla and illustrated by Amy Córdova. Tricycle Press, 2008. PreK-2

A cradle for baby, a superhero's cape, a warm blanket on a cool night--there are so many things you can do with a rebozo. Through the eyes of a young girl, readers are introduced to the traditional shawl found in many Mexican and Mexican-American households.

*What Can You Do with a Paleta? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* written by Carmen Tafolla and illustrated by Magaly Morales. Dragonfly Books, 2009. PreK-2

As she strolls through her barrio, a young girl introduces readers to the frozen, fruit-flavored treat that thrills Mexican and Mexican-American children. In this bilingual paperback edition, discover the joys of a paleta—the traditional Mexican popsicle treat sold from the wagon with the tinkly bell that brings children running from every direction. Create a masterpiece, make tough choices (strawberry or coconut?), or cool off on a warm summer's day—there's so much to do with a paleta.

*Separate is Never Equal* written by Duncan Tonatiuh and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams, Harry N, 2014. Grades 1 -6

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 lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California.



*Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale* written by Duncan Tonatiuh and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013. Grades 1 -6

In this allegorical picture book, a young rabbit named Pancho eagerly awaits his papa's return. Papa Rabbit traveled north two years ago to find work in the great carrot and lettuce fields to earn money for his family. When Papa does not return, Pancho sets out to find him. He packs Papa's favorite meal--mole, rice and beans, a heap of warm tortillas, and a jug of aguamiel--and heads north. He meets a coyote, who offers to help Pancho in exchange for some of Papa's food. They travel together until the food is gone and the coyote decides he is still hungry . . . for Pancho! Duncan Tonatiuh brings to light the hardship and struggles faced by thousands of families who seek to make better lives for themselves and their children by illegally crossing the border.

*Count Me In! A Parade of Mexican Folk Art Numbers in English and Spanish* written by Cynthia Weill and illustrated by Guillermina, Josefina, Irene and Concepción . Cinco Punto Press, 2012. Grades PreK - 2

Practice your numbers in English and Spanish when you count the beautiful dancers, playful musicians, and happy children of Oaxaca as the Guelaguetza parade goes by! Pronounced Gal-a-get-zah, the lively celebration—full of traditional dancing and music—takes place every July deep in the heart of southern Mexico. ONE band leader with a big white balloon! DOS hombres with firecrackers! THREE musicians! FOUR giants! All exquisitely handcrafted by the Mexican folk art masters Guillermina, Josefina, Irene, and Concepción Aguilar, in collaboration with author and scholar Cynthia Weill. Bienvenidos! Welcome to the parade!

*The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet* written by Carmen Agra Deedy and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. Scholastic, 2017. PreK-2

La Paz is a happy, but noisy village. A little peace and quiet would make it just right. So the villagers elect the bossy Don Pepe as their mayor. Before long, singing of any kind is outlawed. Even the teakettle is afraid to whistle!

*La Princesa and the Pea* written by Susan Middleton Elya and illustrated by Juana Martínez-Neal. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017. PreK-2

The Princess and the Pea gets a fresh twist in this charming bilingual retelling, winner of the Pura Belpré Medal for Illustration. 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 . . . Readers will be enchanted by this Latino twist on the classic story, and captivated by the vibrant art inspired by the culture of Peru.

*Lucía the Luchadora* written by Cynthia Leonor Garza and illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez. POW!, 2017. PreK-2

Lucía the Luchadora named one of the Best Books of 2017 by NPR, Kirkus Reviews, Chicago Public Library and more! 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: Lucía comes from a family of luchadoras, the bold and valiant women of the Mexican lucha libre tradition. Cloaked in a flashy new disguise, Lucía returns as a recess sensation! But when she's confronted with a case of injustice, Lucía must decide if she can stay true to the ways of the luchadora and fight for what is right, even if it means breaking the sacred rule of never revealing the identity behind her mask. A story about courage and cultural legacy, Lucía the Luchadora is full of pluck, daring, and heart.

*Ada's Violin* written by Susan Hood and illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. Simon & Schuster, 2017. PreK-3

From award-winning author Susan Hood and illustrator Sally Wern Comport comes the extraordinary true tale of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay, an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash. Ada Ríos grew up in Cateura, a small town in Paraguay built on a landfill. She dreamed of playing the violin, but with little money for anything but the bare essentials, it was never an option...until a music teacher named Favio Chávez arrived. He wanted to give the children of Cateura something special, so he made them instruments out of materials found in the trash. It was a crazy idea, but one that would leave Ada—and her town—forever changed. Now, the Recycled Orchestra plays venues around the world, spreading their message of hope and innovation.

*Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics* written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael López. Henry Holt and Co., 2017. Grades 4-7

Musician, botanist, baseball player, pilot—the Latinos featured in this collection, *Bravo!*, come from many different countries and from many different backgrounds. Celebrate their accomplishments and their contributions to a collective history and a community that continues to evolve and thrive today!

*The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes* written by Duncan Tonatiuh and illustrated by . Abrams Books for young Readers, 2017. PreK-2

Award-winning author Duncan Tonatiuh reimagines one of Mexico's cherished legends. Princess Izta had many wealthy suitors but dismissed them all. When a mere warrior, Popoca, promised to be true to her and stay always by her side, Izta fell in love. The emperor promised Popoca if he could defeat their enemy Jaguar Claw, then Popoca and Izta could wed. When Popoca was near to defeating Jaguar Claw, his opponent sent a messenger to Izta saying Popoca was dead. Izta fell into a deep sleep and, upon his return, even Popoca could not wake her. As promised Popoca stayed by her side. So two volcanoes were formed: Iztaccihuatl, who continues to sleep, and Popocatepetl, who spews ash and smoke, trying to wake his love.

*Sing, Don't Cry* written by Angela Dominguez and illustrated by . Henry Holt and Co., 2017. PreK-2

Once a year, Abuelo comes from Mexico to visit his family. He brings his guitar, his music—and his memories. In this story inspired by the life of Apolinar Navarrete Díaz—author Angela Dominguez's grandfather and a successful mariachi musician—Abuelo and his grandchildren sing through the bad times and the good. Lifting their voices and their spirits, they realize that true happiness comes from singing together.

*Walk With Me* written by Jairo Buitrago and illustrated by Rafael Yockteng. Groundwood Books, 2017. PreK-2

A deceptively simple, imaginative story depicting the complex emotional reality of a girl whose father no longer lives at home. The girl conjures up an imaginary companion, a lion, who will come with her on the long walk home from school. He will help her to pick up her baby brother from daycare and shop at the store (which has cut off the family's credit), and he'll keep her company all along the way until she is safe at home. He will always come back when she needs him, unlike the father whom she sees only in a photograph — a photograph in which he clearly resembles a lion.