

Supplementary Resources

Books

While the majority of the following books do not speak directly to the Pinochet dictatorship or the arpillera art form, they all focus on Chile in on manner or another. There are a variety of genres represented, from folktales and fiction to non-fiction. They are grouped according to reading level.

A Hen, a Chick, and a String Guitar

by Margaret Read McDonald. Ages 2 and up

Inspired by a Chilean folktale, this rollicking chant-along tale is a delight for young children. “Grandma gave me a clucking white hen. Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! ... One day that hen gave me a chick! I had a hen. And I had a chick. Ay! Ay! Ay! Ay! Ay! How I loved my two little pets.” As the animals arrive two by two, the story adds them up...ending with 16 pets! Thus a counting/adding book, a baby animal names book, and a just plain fun to chant story. Includes a CD composed, sung and played on guitar by Bob King.

Land of the Wild Llama: A Story of Patagonian Andes

by Audrey M. Fraggalosch. Ages 4 and up

Among the windy peaks of the Andes Mountains in Chilean Patagonia, herds of guanaco, wild ancestors of the domesticated llama, make their home. In spring, a newborn guanaco is born.

The Day the Stones Walked

by TA Barron and William Low. Ages 4 and up

Pico’s father isn’t like the other fathers on Easter Island. Instead of building boats or hunting octopus, he sculpts the giant stone figures that he believes, in times of trouble, will rise and walk. Impossible, thinks Pico, until the Great Wave crashes into the island and Pico experiences firsthand the wonder of the stones. In this stunning tale of faith and the humbling power of nature, T. A. Barron and William Low envision life as it might have been on the mysterious Easter Island . . . before the stones became the island’s only inhabitants.

My Name is Gabriel/Me Llamo Gabriela: The Life of Gabriela Mistral/La vida de Gabriela Mistral

by Monica Brown | Ages 4 and up.

Gabriela Mistral loved words and sounds and stories. Born in Chile, she would grow to become the first Nobel Prize-winning Latina woman in the world. As a poet and a teacher, she inspired children across many countries to let their voices be heard. This beautifully crafted story, where words literally come to life, is told with the rhythm and melody of a poem. The second in Luna Rising's bilingual storybook biography series. *My Name is Gabriela/Me Llamo Gabriela* is beautiful tribute to a woman who taught us the power of words and the importance of following our dreams. The story of Gabriela Mistral will continue to inspire children everywhere.

Mariana and the Merchild: A Folk Tale from Chile

by Caroline Pitcher. Ages 5 and up

Old Mariana longs for friendship, but she is feared by the village children and fearful of the hungry sea-wolves that hide in the sea-caves near her hut. When one day Marianna finds a Merchild inside a crab shell her whole life changes- but she knows that one day, when the sea is calm again, the Merchild's mother will come to take her back. A memorable story of unconditional love, this poetic retelling of a traditional South American folk tale beautifully conveys the joy that may come if you open your heart to what you cannot keep.

A Pen Pal for Max

by Gloria Rand and Ted Rand. Ages 5 and up

Max doesn't know what to expect when he slips a note into a box of grapes headed to the United States, so he is thrilled when he receives a response from a girl named Maggie. The two quickly become pen pals. Then one day Max's village in Chile is hit by a huge earthquake, and his school must be closed because of damages. When the school finally reopens, a surprise is waiting for Max from his faraway friends.

Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People

by Monica Brown. Ages 6 and up

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.

To Go Singing Through the World: The Childhood of Pablo Neruda

by Deborah Kogan Ray | Ages 8 and up

Pablo Neruda grew up in the rough and wild frontier town of Temuco, Chile. His father was a railroad man and not inclined to draw out the introspective boy. However, his stepmother, descended from the Mapuche people, was gentle and nurturing and told him stories of Chile's native people. But in her husband's presence, she was as silent as Pablo. So the child found refuge in nature and in books. And secretly he wrote down his thoughts. With the encouragement of Gabriela Mistral, an award-winning poet, teacher, and friend, Neruda's writing grew resonant and powerful. At age sixteen he left Temuco for the university in Santiago and went on to become the "people's poet" and to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The Story of the Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly

by Luis Sepulveda. Ages 8 and up

It's migration time and as a mother gull dives into the water to catch a herring she's caught in an oil slick! Thinking of the egg she is about to lay she manages to extract herself and fly to the nearest port. Exhausted, she lands on a balcony where Zorba the cat is sunning himself. Zorba wants to get help, but the gull knows it's too late and she extracts three promises from him: 1) That he won't eat the egg, 2) that he'll take care of the chick until it hatches, and 3) that he'll teach it to fly. Well the first two are hard enough, but the third one is surely impossible. Isn't it?

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

by Marc Aronson | Ages 10 and up

In early August 2010, the unthinkable happened when a mine collapsed in Copiapó, Chile, and 33 miners were trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources and increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention and rejoiced in the amazing spirit and determination of the miners. What could have been a terrible tragedy became an amazing story of survival. Now, with exclusive interviews with rescuers and expert commentary, Marc Aronson brings us the backstory behind this incredible event. By tracing the psychological, physical, and environmental factors surrounding the rescue, *Trapped* highlights the amazing technology and helping hands that made it all possible. From the Argentinean soccer players who hoped to raise morale, to NASA volunteering their expertise to come up with a plan, there was no shortage of enterprising spirit when it came to saving lives.

The Dreamer

by Pam Munoz Ryan. Ages 10 and up

From the time he is a young boy, Neftali hears the call of a mysterious voice. He knows he must follow it—even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him,

and when he doubts himself. It leads him under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain, until finally, he discovers its source. Combining elements of magical realism with biography, poetry, literary fiction, and sensorial, transporting illustrations, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sís take readers on a rare journey of the heart and imagination.

Gringolandia

by Lynn Miller Lachman. Ages 14 and up

Daniel's papá, Marcelo, used to play soccer, dance the cueca, and drive his kids to school in a beat-up green taxi—all while publishing an underground newspaper that exposed Chile's military regime. After papá's arrest in 1980, Daniel's family fled to the United States. Now Daniel has a new life, playing guitar in a rock band and dating Courtney, a minister's daughter. He hopes to become a US citizen as soon as he turns eighteen. When Daniel's father is released and rejoins his family, they see what five years of prison and torture have done to him. Marcelo is partially paralyzed, haunted by nightmares, and bitter about being exiled to "Gringolandia." Daniel worries that Courtney's scheme to start a bilingual human rights newspaper will rake up papá's past and drive him further into alcohol abuse and self-destruction. Daniel dreams of a real father-son relationship, but he may have to give up everything simply to save his papá's life. This powerful coming-of-age story portrays an immigrant teen's struggle to reach his tortured father and find his place in the world.

Films

The following films can be used in parts or their entirety to teach about different facets of Chilean history and society.

The Official Story

Rated R. In Spanish with English subtitles

This film takes place in Argentina, but tells a story similar to what many experienced in Chile during the Pinochet dictatorship. An Argentine teacher lives in blissful ignorance of the evils perpetrated by her country's government. Over time, however, her students' rejection of the "official" versions of their history leads her to question things herself. Suspecting that her adopted daughter may have been the child of a murdered political prisoner, she attempts to unearth the truth. But her investigation reveals levels of political corruption so abhorrent that the illusions of her past life are irrevocably shattered.

Missing

Rated PG. In English

The peril facing a lone American amid Third World political turmoil is elegantly communicated in this important film from Costa-Gavras (*Z*), adapted by the director and Donald Stewart from Thomas Hauser's

nonfiction book. The key to its power onscreen stems from the decision not to center the action merely on the disappearance of Charles Horman (John Shea), but also on the search for him by his father Ed (Jack Lemmon)--and on Ed's discovery of a son he never knew. The Oscar-winning script flows freely between that search and Charles's earlier experiences in the unnamed country (in the true account, Chile). Providing a link between those two stories is Charles's wife Beth (Sissy Spacek), who follows her father-in-law around a country in chaos, teeming with reckless authority and disinterested American diplomats (epitomized by ace character actor David Clennon). The film, which was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar and won the Cannes Film Festival's top prize, is certainly manipulative, but it works because of its finely detailed human elements. Usually emotionally extroverted, Lemmon gives one of his finest performances playing against that type--here, he's a controlled, intellectual man who learns more about his son, and his country, than he ever dreamed he would. --Doug Thomas

Death and the Maiden

Rated R. In English

Roman Polanski's film adaptation of Ariel Dorfman's stunning play about the legacy of torture has more in common with the director's first film, *Knife in the Water* (with all the latter's unnerving ambiguities about power, sexual transgression, and confused alliances among three people) than a straightforward political parable. Sigourney Weaver (a bit underwhelming in this role, but good overall) plays a former political prisoner in an unnamed South American country that has gone democratic. She is married to a government official (fine work by Stuart Wilson) heading up official inquiries into the practice of torture under the former regime. Still shattered by her experience, Weaver's character seeks safe haven in closets of the cliff-top house she shares with her husband. But when the latter comes home in the company of a seemingly nice fellow (a brilliant Ben Kingsley), she believes she recognizes the stranger as the interrogator who raped her repeatedly in prison. She violently takes him hostage, and what ensues is a hurricane of fury and confusion, as Kingsley's terrified character denies all accusations, Wilson's guilt-ridden spouse can't decide whom to defend, and Weaver turns her psychosexual rage into a weapon of humiliation. Dorfman adapted the screenplay himself, but there's no question that Polanski is leading us down a familiar path of human betrayal and terror that he crossed in such films as *Rosemary's Baby*, *Repulsion*, and *Bitter Moon*. At times stunning in its bluntness and compelling to the last, *Death and the Maiden* literally takes us to the edge of oblivion, where--in Polanski's films--the hardest truths always seem to fall into a heretofore unknown perspective. --Tom Keogh

Machuca

Not Rated. In Spanish with English subtitles

Set in Chile, 1973, this is an astonishingly intimate and painful coming-of-age story about a pair of 12-year-old boys from opposite extremes of society who form an unlikely friendship during the last days of President Allende and the first days of Pinochet. The potent events are accompanied by a searingly beautiful soundtrack with heart-stopping beats that propel the drama of the story.

El Clavel Negro: The Black Pimpernel

Rated PG. In Spanish with English subtitles

Santiago, Chile, September 11th, 1973. Allende is overthrown. The film is based on the true life of Swedish ambassador Harald Edelstam (Michael Nyqvist) and his struggle to help Chilean refugees. During the panic after the State Coup, Edelstam fought for human rights, justice, and dignity. What drove him? What price did he have to pay for his total commitment? Haunted by his past, we follow the search of a man's desperate account to find true love again. Saving thousands of people persecuted by the new regime, Edelstam finds himself and his true love, Consuelo (Kate del Castillo).

Dawson Isla 10

Not Rated.

After the 1973 coup that deposed Allende and brought Pinochet to power in Chile, the former members of his cabinet are imprisoned on Dawson Island, the world's southernmost concentration camp. Veteran filmmaker Miguel Littin follows the ordeal of these men who are determined to survive and provide history with their testimony. Written by Palm Springs International Film Festival

Gringuito

Not Rated. In Spanish with English subtitles

Gringuito is the story of a young child that is uprooted from his New York home and forced to move back to Chile with his parents. He has always lived in New York and feels totally out of place the day his parents settle in to their new apartment in Santiago, Chile. Ivan, the Gringuito, considers his parents' return very disappointing and feels that his mother's pregnancy will also take attention away from him and cause him to lose his "exclusivity". Shortly after moving in, he decides to runaway and gets involved with "El Flaco", who looks after Ivan and for whom he develops a true friendship. Ivan's experiences develop into a young boy's rite of passage and lead him to a poignant encounter with Chile.