The Booklist Project

Focus: Culture-Specific Booklist
Filipino
Developed by: Graham Oakland
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Books Specific to Filipino Culture
Grades 2-7

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TESL 507
Summary: On Monte Segrado there stood a tree that was relished for its healing properties. Blindly, a man chopped down the tree in order to become rich from its leaves. As punishment, his three daughters were imprisoned; taking the place of a greedy snake that was previously condemned to the tree. At the request of his mother, the youngest brother Pedro soon sets off to bring his sisters home.

This story is written bilingually with the Tagalog language coming first, which makes it very accessible for ELLs to access their L1 when learning English. In the back of the book there is a glossary of terms translated and defined in both Tagalog and English.

Language: Tagalog/English bilingual

Formats Available: Paperback

Grade Level: 5.1
Computed using the Fry’s Readability Graph

ELL WIDA Level: Expanding

Related Website(s):
- http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/13435/ballet-manila’s-'lola-basyang'-is---great-fun
- http://www.papertigers.org/wordpress/tag/christine-bellen/
  Plays have been inspired by the author’s stories.
Summary: This is the story of a young girl named Pan de Sal. She is a talented singer and a very good sipa player, but she is very shy and a bit embarrassed of her family's lack of money compared to that of her peers. Pan de Sal is surprised when her classmates find her games fun, her food delicious, and her singing voice beautiful.

The story does a great job of highlighting the many special attributes of Filipino culture, and would be a great read for anyone, including ELLs, who may be trying to fit into a culture different than their own. This story contains many Tagalog words and includes the lyrics to Pan de Sal's favorite song in both English and Tagalog.

Award: Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature; First Prize

Language: English

Formats Available: Hardcover

Grade Level: 7.0
Computed using the Fry’s Readability Graph

ELL WIDA Level: Expanding

Related Websites:
- [http://www.slideshare.net/rmcomeau/filipino-americans](http://www.slideshare.net/rmcomeau/filipino-americans)
- [Recipe for making pan de sal](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=tl&u=http://manangkusinera.blogspot.com/2006/10/pan-de-sal.html&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dresources%2Bfor%2Bteaching%2BPan%2Bde%2BSal%2BSaves%2Bthe%2Bday%3D%26start%3D40%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN%26biw%3D1279%26bih%3D644%26prmd%3Dimvs&sa=X&ei=t0mJUOh7iprRAY_1gYgC&ved=0CCAQ7gEwADgo)

**Summary:** A deserted hut on top of a mountain overlooking the city of Maynilad, on the island of Luzon, has become the home to many types of Filipino birds. One day, a gecko named Tuko takes up residence in the hut to practice his singing. Tuko’s singing is so awful that the birds must plan a way to trick the gecko into leaving, so they can reclaim their role as the alarm of Maynilad.

ELLs will be excited to see the illustrations of familiar animals and traditional Filipino homes. The book also incorporates Tagalog words, and culturally specific onomatopoeia into the story.

**Language:** English

**Formats Available:** Hardcover

**Grade Level:** 3.7

**ELL WIDA Level:** High Developing/Expanding

**Related Website(s):**
- [https://portfolio.du.edu/portfolio/getportfoliofile?uid=207437](https://portfolio.du.edu/portfolio/getportfoliofile?uid=207437)
- [http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/video/st/ST45.htm](http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/video/st/ST45.htm)
Summary: Cora is a young girl who is usually only allowed to do the simple “kid's” jobs in the kitchen. One day after all of her siblings have left for the day, her mother asks her if she would like to help prepare dinner for that evening. Cora is ecstatic and decides to cook *Pancit*, a traditional Filipino dish that her Lolo, or grandfather used to cook.

ELLs will enjoy reading about and seeing the illustrations of many Filipino dishes, and the mother's memories of her Lolo do a great job of describing typical Filipino ingredients. At the end of the story there is a glossary of Tagalog terms used in the book, and a recipe of how to make *Lolo's Traditional Pancit*.

Language: English

Formats Available: Hardcover; audio read aloud

Grade Level: 3.1

ELL WIDA Level: High Developing

Related Websites:
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_Zlrw9lebY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_Zlrw9lebY)

**Summary:** Abadeha is having a wonderful life until her mother suddenly becomes ill and dies. Her father soon meets and marries another woman who has two daughters of her own. The stepmother and stepsisters soon become jealous of Abadeha’s natural beauty and are very cruel to her.

The setting takes place in the Philippines and uses native beliefs, plants, and animals. ELLs may be able to better identify with the familiar names and the wonderful job the book does of depicting a popular western story in a Filipino context.

**Language:** English

**Formats Available:** Hardcover

**Grade Level:** 5.3

**ELL WIDA Level:** Expanding/Bridging

**Related Website(s):**
- [http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=21495](http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=21495)
- [http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=13868](http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=13868)
Summary: Papel De Liha is a story about a little girl who overhears her aunt telling her mother that if she continues to work so hard her husband will not want to hold her hand because it will feel like sandpaper. The young girl begins to worry that this may be true, but in the end comes to a different conclusion. The story does a great job of giving credence to the hard work Filipino mother's do.

ELLs will enjoy the book's illustrations and benefit from the many rhyming words and repetitive sentence structure. It is written in Tagalog and translated into English, with the Tagalog language coming first.

*One of the translated lines is not grammatically correct.

Awards: Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature - First Prize, Short Story for Children, 1995

Language: Tagalog/English Bilingual

Formats Available: Paperback; guided reading online

Grade Level: 3.0

Computed using the Fry’s Readability Graph

ELL WIDA Level: Expanding

Related Website(s):

Summary: Lakas takes us on an adventure through a Filipino community in San Francisco as he searches for a talking fish that he dreamt about. ELLs will enjoy the illustrations in the book that do a great job of depicting typical scenes one might have encountered in Manilatown, the area of San Francisco where many Filipino immigrants settled.

This book is written bilingually, with the Tagalog language coming first. It has an introduction for adults at the beginning, and gives a bit of history about Manilatown at the end.

Language: English/Tagalog Bilingual

Formats Available: Hardcover

Grade Level: 3.0

ELL WIDA Level: High Developing/ Low Expanding

Related Website(s):
- http://s51249.gridserver.com/resources/teachers-guides
Summary: Lakas is a Filipino boy who lives in a predominantly Filipino neighborhood in San Francisco. One day while out exploring in his neighborhood, he encounters many interesting personalities. All of his new friends reside in the Makibaka Hotel and are facing eviction. Lakas rallies his new friends together to organize a protest, in hopes that the landlord will have mercy on the occupants and let them stay.

ELLs will enjoy reading about how Filipino immigrants were able to successfully fight for their right to affordable housing. This story is based on the true events of those faced with eviction from the Trinity Plaza Apartments in San Francisco, which was home to many Filipino immigrants. The story gives credence to Makibaka, the Filipino word for struggle.

Language: English/Tagalog Bilingual

Formats Available: Hardcover

Grade Level: 3.0

ELL WIDA Level: High Developing/Expanding

Related Website(s):
- http://www.reachandteach.com/content/article.php?story=20070615130304357
Summary: Filipino Friends is a bilingual book that speaks about Sam, a Filipino boy born abroad, who returns to his native country. The book does a great job of describing some common differences between eastern and western cultures. There are pictures with both English and Tagalog translations as well as elaborate descriptions given to cultural norms such as; respect for elders, cuisine, and Filipino traditions.

ELLs will enjoy reading the lyrics to a popular Filipino folk song, recipes for traditional dishes, and learning how to play a popular Filipino game. The illustrations in the book do a wonderful job of depicting realistic everyday activities.

Language: English/Tagalog

Formats Available: Hardcover

Grade Level: 2.5

ELL WIDA Level: High Beginning/Developing

Related Website(s):
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNoeReqoM6g&feature=endscreen

**Summary:** A collection of classic Filipino folktales and stories. The thirteen passages chosen for this book all have Filipino culture interwoven into their context either through the illustrations or the text. Many Filipino children may have had some of these stories told to them by their parents or grandparents, and so ELLs will enjoy learning English through reading familiar stories that may trigger memories.

**Language:** English

**Formats Available:** Hardcover

**Grade Level:** 3.0

**ELL WIDA Level:** Expanding/Bridging

**Related Website(s):**
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iv9_Czqfn3o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iv9_Czqfn3o)
The Booklist Project
A Project of the M.Ed. In TESL Program,
Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
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