Bilingual Children’s Literature
Organized by Language Version Format:
A Representative Sampling of Books

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Single Language Books

Illustrations: none, except cover art
Grade Level: Middle and Secondary Grades
Reading Level: 5.1; Guided Reading Q
Featured Latino Culture: Mexican
Premise of the Book: Eleven short stories documenting the experiences of Hispanic youth living in California
Interesting Feature: Insightful journey through the lives of Latino adolescents
Genre: Fiction
Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Booklist Editors’ Choice, Horn Book Fanfare Selection, Judy Lopez Memorial Honor Book, Parenting Magazine’s Reading Magic Award, John and Patricia Beatty Award

Becoming Naomi León/Yo, Naomi León, Pam Muñoz Ryan, Scholastic Book Service, ISBN 978-0-439-26997-1, Cover art by Raúl Colón, Translated to Spanish by Nuria Molinero
Illustrations: none, except cover art
Grade Level: Middle
Reading Level: 5.4
Featured Latino Culture: Mexican
Premise of the Book: Protagonist goes to Mexico to search for her father in the hopes of rekindling family relationships.
Interesting Feature: Short chapters for an enjoyable, non-threatening read
Genre: Fiction
Awards: 2004 Parent’s Choice Silver Honor Award; Book Sense Book of the Year Honor Book; ALA Schneider Family Book Award; ALA Notable Children's Book

English Version available in In Zone Book Format (designed for ELLs), Hampton Brown;
Format: Paperback, Audiobook
Illustrations: none, except cover art
Grade Level: Middle Grades
Reading Level: 5.5; Lexile 840
Featured Latino Culture: Dominican
Premise of the Book: Contains a social justice theme around speaking out and its consequences
Interesting Feature: Poems interspersed into the prose
Genre: Realistic Fiction

The Dreamer/ El Soñador, Pam Muñoz Ryan, Scholastic Book Service, ISBN 978-0-439-26970-4, Illustrations by Peter Sís, Translated to English by Iñigo Javaloyes
Illustrations: Stippling technique with green ink (the creation of a pattern simulating varying degrees of solidity or shading by using small dots)
Grade Level: Upper Elementary-Middle
Reading Level: 4.6, Guided Reading L
Featured Latino Culture: Chilean
Premise of the Book: Fictionalized biography of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda
Interesting Feature: Combined elements of biography, poetry, literary fiction, and illustrations
Genre: Biographical Fiction
Awards: 2011 Pura Belpré Award for Fiction

How Tía Lola Came to (Visit) Stay/ De cómo tía Lola vino (de visita) a quedarse, Originally published as Cuando tía Lola vino de visita de quedarse, Julia Alvarez, Dell Yearling, ISBN 978-0307707703, Translated to Spanish by Liliana Valenzuela
Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Audiobook [Spanish and English editions]
Illustrations: none, except cover art
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 4.8; Guided Reading R; DRA 40
Featured Latino Culture: Dominican
Premise of Book: Tía Lola visits her family members in Vermont and transforms their lives by reviving their Dominican traditions
Interesting Feature: Includes some English phrases to create an authentic Dominican American feel
Genre: Fiction

(See under English with Spanish Interspersed for description)

Tonight is Caraval/ Por fin es carnaval, Arthur Dorros, Picture Puffins, ISBN 978-0140554717, Illustrated[photographed textile work]by el Club de Madres Virgen de Carmen, Lima, Perú, Translated by Sandra Marulanda Dorros
Format: Hardcover, Paperback [Spanish & English edition]
Illustrations: Photographs of handmade arpilleras (colorful fabric stitched on burlap) from Peru
Grade Level: 4.1
Reading Level: Primary
Featured Latino Culture: Peruvian
Premise of Book: The story of a little boy’s preparations for Carnaval
Interesting Feature: The colorful arpilleras accentuate the text; Includes photos of women making the arpilleras; Includes a pictorial glossary of Andean musical instruments
Genre: Fiction

Format: Hardcover, Paperback [English and Spanish edition]
Illustrations: Paintings by Ruth Wright Paulsen
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 2.7

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican
Premise of Book: The planting, harvesting, milling and cooking processes of tortilla making
Interesting feature: The supremely detailed painted illustrations as well as the rich descriptive language
Genre: Creative/poetic nonfiction

Dual Language Books

Format: Hardcover; Dual Language, Spanish on top/English on the Bottom
Illustrations: Ink drawings incorporating collage, rubber stamps, and digital elements
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 3.0

Featured Latino Culture: Multiple countries represented; those that enjoy arroz con leche
Premise of the Book: A young boy’s story of making arroz con leche with his family.
Genre: Realistic fiction

Format: Hardcover; Dual Language, English on top & left/ Spanish on bottom & right
Illustrations: Paintings influenced by magical symbolism
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 2.0

Featured Latino Culture: Mexican
Premise of the Book: Mexico’s annual celebration of reading for children including the various book celebrations that are a part of the festivities
Genre: Nonfiction
Awards: 2010 Pura Belapré Medal Winner for Illustrations

Format: Hardcover, Paperback; Dual Language, English on top/Spanish on the Bottom
Illustrations: Watercolor drawings
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 4.2
**Featured Latino Culture:** Mexican

**Premise of the Book:** A story about a young girl’s quinceañera

**Genre:** Fiction


**Format:** Hardcover, Paperback; Dual Language, English on left/ Spanish on right

**Illustrations:** Drawings with cross-hatching

**Grade Level:** Primary

**Reading Level:** 4.4, Lexile 580

**Featured Latino Culture:** Mexican

**Premise of the Book:** Traditional Mexican folktale of a lizard that goes on a journey to find the sun in order to brighten and warm the world

**Genre:** Folklore; Fiction

**Awards:** Gold Medal, Folklore Category, NAPPA – National Parenting Publications Association


**Format:** Hardcover, Paperback; Dual Language, Spanish on top/ English on bottom

**Illustrations:** Paintings with folklore influence

**Grade Level:** Primary

**Reading Level:** 1.8

**Featured Latino Culture:** Mexican

**Premise of the Book:** A collection of Mexican *dichos* and their English equivalents

**Genre:** Proverbs; Fiction

**Awards:** 1995 National Parenting Publications Gold Award

*My Name is Gabito/Me llamo Gabito,* Monica Brown, Luna Rising, ISBN 978-0-87358-908-6, Illustrated by Raúl Colón

**Format:** Hardcover, Kindle; Dual Language, English on left/ Spanish on right

**Illustrations:** Watercolor drawings with crosshatching

**Grade Level:** Primary

**Reading Level:** 4.8, Lexile 910

**Featured Latino Culture:** Columbian

**Premise of the Book:** Biographical account of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's childhood in Colombia to his life as a world-renown author

**Genre:** Biographical fiction

**Awards:** 2008 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book for Illustrations

*Sip, Slurp, Soup, Soup/Caldo, Caldo, Caldo,* Diane Gonzalez Betrand, Arte Público Press, ISBN Illustrated by Alex Pardo Delange, Translated by Julia Mercedes Castilla

**Format:** Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook; Dual Language, English on top/ Spanish on bottom

**Illustrations:** Pen and ink; watercolors

**Grade Level:** Primary
Reading Level: 3.1
Featured Latino Culture: Multiple countries represented through the inclusion of *caldo*-making traditions
Premise of the Book: Rhythmic text detailing one family's celebratory making and enjoying of *caldo*
Genre: Fiction

Format: Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook; Dual Language, English on right and top/Spanish on bottom and left
Illustrations: Layered oil washes and paper collage (using newsprint)
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 3.9, Lexile 730
Featured Latino Culture: Puerto Ricans living in New York
Premise of the Book: The effect of Pura Belpré's life and work on Puerto Rican immigrants living in New York in the early 21st century
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Awards: 2009 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book for Narrative; 2009 Pura Belpré Award Honor Book for Illustrations; Jane Adams Children’s Book Award

**English with Spanish Interspersed in the Text**

Format: Hardcover, Paperback (English, Spanish, & Korean)
Illustrations: Watercolor drawings
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 3.1, DRA 28
Featured Latino Culture: Mexican
Premise of the Book: Represents a bilingual child's reality with one set of Grandparents speaking English and the other speaking Spanish
Genre: Fiction

Illustrations: Paintings with collage technique
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 2.7; Lexile 410
Featured Latino Culture: Any Caribbean location with Hispanic heritage
Premise of Book: Cross-generational journey of a little girl and her *abuela* from New York City back to the island *abuela* grew up on
Genre: Fiction

_The Night the Moon Fell/La noche que se cayó la luna_, Pat Mora, Groundwood Books, ISBN 978-0-88899-938-2, Illustrated by Domi, Translated to Spanish by Groundwood Books
Format: Hardcover, Paperback (English, Spanish, & Korean)
Illustrations: Watercolor paintings/murals
Grade Level: Primary
Reading Level: 3.4
Featured Latino Culture: Mayan
Premise of the Book: Traditional Mopan Mayan myth behind the creation of the Milky Way
Genre: Folklore; Fiction

Número Uno, Alex & Arthur Dorros, Harry N. Abrams Inc. ISBN 978-0-8109-5764-0,
Illustrated by Susan Guevara
Format: Hardcover
Illustrations: Oil paints and graphite [en plein air method (painting outdoors)]
Grade Level: Primary Grades
Reading Level: 2.7
Featured Latino Culture: Mexican
Premise of the Book: Dueling brothers take part in a test devised by the townspeople to settle who is more important to their village
Genre: Fiction

**English with Code Switching**

Get ready for Gabi: A crazy missed-up Spanglish Day, Marisa Montes, ISBN I 0-439-47519-8,
Scholastic, Illustrated by Joe Cepeda
Format: Paperback
Illustrations: Black and White Line Drawings
Grade Level: Primary Grades
Reading Level: 3.9, DRA 40, Guided Reading Q
Featured Latino Culture: Multiple countries represented by the characters(Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Argentina)
Premise of the Book: Represents a bilingual child's reality speaking two languages--sometimes together in the same sentence; expressing some information in one language and other information in the other
Genre: Comedy & Humor; Fiction