

A Young Child's World



The Fire by Annette Griessman.

Maria's house and everything in it except a teddy bear and a family photograph are destroyed in the fire, but her mother reminds Maria and her brother that they still have what is most important.

Go! Go! Maria!: What It's Like to Be 1 by Robie H. Harris.

One-year-old Maria learns new things almost every day.

If the Shoe Fits by Gary Soto.

Rigo, who is used to hand-me-downs, gets teased by the neighborhood bully about his new shoes.

Julio's Magic by Arthur Dorros.

Julio helps his elderly mentor win a prestigious woodcarving contest.

The Kite Festival by Leyla Torres.

Fernando and his multigenerational family go for a Sunday outing and happen upon a Kite Festival. They each contribute something that helps them create their own kite so that they can join in.

Market Day: A Story Told With Folk Art by Lois Ehlert.

Simple rhyming text and photographed folk art shows the hustle and bustle of the buyers and sellers in an open air farmers' market.

Mice and Beans by Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Rhythmic cumulative tale of how some mice help a seven-year-old girl celebrate her birthday.

My Diary From Here to There/Mi Diario De Aquí Hasta Allá by Amada Irma Pérez.

Explores the feelings of a Mexican girl who is about to start a new life in Los Angeles.

The Perfect Piñata by Kelli Kyle Dominguez.

Marisa picks out a piñata for her birthday party and becomes so attached to it that on the day of her birthday she cannot bear to break it.

Rosa's Room by Barbara Bottner.

Young Rosa moves to a new home and learns the value of friendship as she fills her new room with the familiar and the new.

Friends and Family

Enrico Starts School by Charlotte Middleton.

Five-year-old Enrico the cat starts school, but has no idea how to make friends. His brother helps him.



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Grandma's Records by Eric Velasquez.

Spending summer in Spanish Harlem with his Puerto Rican grandmother, Eric learns about her life in Puerto Rico through her favorite merengues and salsa records.

Home at Last by Susan Middleton Elya.

Eight-year-old Ana helps her mother adjust to her new life in the United States.

How Tia Lola Came to Stay by Julia Alvarez.

Ten-year-old Miguel learns to love his flamboyant aunt from the Dominican Republic when she visits his family in Vermont.

I Love Saturdays y Domingos by Alma Flor Ada.

This simple story shows the relationship a young girl has with her two sets of grandparents who are from two different cultures...one European American and the other Mexican American.

Mama Does the Mambo by Katherine Leiner.

Following the death of her Papa, Sophia fears that her Mama will never find another dancing partner for Carnival.

My Very Own Room/Mi Propio Cuartito by Amada Irma Pérez.

A Mexican-American girl, with help from her family, realizes her dream of having her own space in her crowded house.

The Rainbow Tulip by Pat Mora.

Set in Texas, in the 1920s, a young Mexican-American girl adapts to her new school.

The Remembering Stone by Barbara Timberlake Russell.

A simple story of a mother telling her young daughter about her previous life in Costa Rica.

Uncle Rain Cloud by Tony Johnston.

Carlos tries to help his cranky Uncle Tomas, who is happiest when telling stories about his homeland, adjust to their new home in Los Angeles.

Customs, Cultures & Celebrations

The Bakery Lady/La Señora De La Panaderia by Pat Mora.

Monica, who likes to help out in her grandparents' bakery, finds the doll hidden in the Three Kings' Ring and gets to bake cookies for a party for her friends.

Beto and the Bone Dance by Gina Freschet.

Beto searches for something special to put on his grandmother's grave for the Day of the Dead.



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The Christmas Gift/El Regalo de Navidad by Francisco Jiménez.

In this bilingual picture book, Panchito worries that he will not receive the presents he wants for Christmas because his family has no money for presents and must move again.

Cinco de Mayo by Lola M. Schaefer.

Simple text and photographs explain the history of this holiday which commemorates the Mexican victory over the French army in 1862.

Cinco de Mayo: Celebrating Hispanic Pride by Carol Gnojewski.

An attractive presentation of the history and traditional food, music and dance that are part of a Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Day of the Dead by Linda Lowery.

Introduces the origins of this Mexican holiday which honors family members who have died and examines how it is celebrated in both Mexico and the United States.

Federico and the Magi's Gift: A Latin American Christmas Story by Beatriz Vidal.

Federico is afraid the Three Wise Men will not visit him because he has misbehaved.

Ghost Wings by Barbara M. Joosse.

Seeing a monarch butterfly at the Day of the Dead celebration reminds a young Mexican girl of all the good times she spent with her deceased grandmother.

Hurray for Three Kings' Day by Lori Marie Carlson.

Anita and her family celebrate Epiphany by commemorating the journey of the Three Wise Men.

Magda's Tortilla's by Becky Chavarría-Cháirez.

On her seventh birthday, Magda receives a lesson on how to make tortillas from her grandmother.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Arrorró Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games by Lulu Delacre.

Fifteen lullabies, nursery rhymes and fingerplays reflecting the diversity of the Latino experience.

¡César: Sí, Se Puede! Yes We Can! by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand.

A collection of free-verse poems which vividly re-create the life and times of Cesar Chavez.

Diez Deditos: Ten Little Fingers & Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs From Latin America by José-Luis Orozco.

A lively compilation of 34 songs and finger rhymes from Latin America.



From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems by Francisco X. Alarcón.

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A collection of 22 bilingual poems celebrating the joys of summertime in Mexico.

Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems by Francisco X. Alarcón.
Series of poems celebrating a San Francisco winter.

A Movie in My Pillow: Poems by Jorge Argueta.

These poems in Spanish and English communicate the author's memories of being a boy in El Salvador and the United States.

Mamá Goose: A Latino Nursery Treasury = Un Tesoro De Rimas Infantiles by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy.

A collection of lullabies, fingerplays, lap games, sayings, nursery rhymes, jump rope songs, and more as an introduction to Latino folklore for English speakers.

¡Pío Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes by Alma Flor Ada.

A collection of rhymes, some accompanied by fingerplays or games, from the rich oral tradition of Latin America and the American Southwest.

Poems to Dream Together/Poemas Para Soñar Juntos by Francisco x. Alarcón.
Bilingual collection of short poems rooted in the everyday world of children.

Señor Don Gato: A Traditional Song Illustrated by John Manders.

A boisterously illustrated interpretation of a traditional song from Mexico.

 **Folk Tales**

Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story by Tomie DePaola.

Hot colors and tile borders framing the illustrations reflect the Latino flavor of this Cinderella tale.

Domitila: A Cinderella Tale From the Mexican Tradition by Jewell Reinhart Coburn.

Mexican folklore version of the Cinderella tale in which a poor girl wins the love of the governor's son.

Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman With a Great Big Heart by Pat Mora.

When a huge Puma is terrifying the village, Doña Flor, the giant lady with a big heart, investigates.

Fairy Trails: A Story Told In English and Spanish by Susan Middleton Elya.
Two young children meet some familiar fairy tale characters as they walk to their aunt's house.

Fiesta Femenina: Celebrating Women in Mexican Folktale retold by Gerson.
Eight tales from various Mexican cultures that center on the important roles of women.



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Juan Bobo Goes to Work: A Puerto Rican Folktale by Marisa Montes.
Juan Bobo tries to do things right, but leaves disaster in his wake.

Little Gold Star: A Cinderella Cuento: Estrellita De Oro by Joe Hayes.
A variation of the Cinderella story from Latino tradition popular in the mountain communities of New Mexico.

Love and Roast Chicken: A Trickster Tale From the Andes Mountains by Barbara Knutson.
A trickster tale from the Andes in which a clever guinea pig manages to escape from a hungry fox.

Red Ridin' in the Hood: and Other Cuentos by Patricia Santos Marcantonio.
Eleven fractured fairy tales with a Latino flavor.

The Secret Footprints by Julia Alvarez. Illustrated by Fabian Negrin.
Guapa, a ciguapa from Dominican folklore, strays too close to humans one night and is discovered by a young boy. She escapes and vows to be more careful but her curiosity is stronger than her word.

Historical Fact

Béisbol! : Pioneros y Leyendas del Beisbol Latino by Jonah Winter.
One-page biographical sketches of 14 top Latino baseball legends who played between 1900 and the 1960s.

Cuban Kids by George Ancona.
Attractive color photos of Cuban children and their families in various activities showing the love they have for their country.

Frida Kahlo: The Artist Who Painted Herself by Frida Fry by Margaret Frith.
Told from a child's perspective in the form of a girl giving a school report, this title presents the artistic world of Mexico's most celebrated female artist.

Harvest by George Ancona.
Photos and text document the lives and work of the Mexican migrant workers on the West coast.

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull.

Biography of Cesar Chavez from boyhood to the time he led a peaceful protest against the working conditions of California's migrant workers.



In the Days of the Vaqueros: America's First True Cowboys by Russ Freedman.

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An historical account of the history and work of the first cowboys who roamed the range in Spanish Mexico nearly 500 years ago.

Montezuma and the Fall of the Aztecs by Eric A. Kimmel.

An account of the last Aztec Emperor in Central America before it was conquered by the Spaniards.

My Name is Celia: the Life of Celia Cruz =Me Llamo Celia: La Vida de Celia Cruz by Monica Brown.

An exuberant picture book biography of the Cuban-born queen of salsa.

Mystery of the Maya: Uncovering the Lost City of Palenque by Peter Lourie.

The author relates his visit to the buried temples in the Mexican jungle to give insights into ancient Mayan civilization.

Tikal by Elizabeth Mann.

Presents information on the Mayan culture that created Tikal, a Mesoamerican city that flourished from 800 B.C.E. to around A.D. 900.