

# National Hispanic Heritage Month Resources for Teachers, Staff and Families

Every year, from mid-September to mid-October, Americans recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the culture, histories, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came to the country from Spanish-speaking countries in Europe and the Americas. The first celebration took place during one week in mid-September of 1968, with the timeframe chosen to honor independence day celebrations in many Spanish-speaking countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (all on September 15), Mexico (September 16), and Chile (September 18). In 1988, the celebration was expanded to last a month, from September 15-October 15 each year.

Springhurst Library Media Specialist Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert and Young Adult Librarian Allee Manning to create this resource list to help your classes dive deeper into the contributions and culture of Latinx and Hispanic Americans.

## Websites

Latinxs in Kid Lit: <https://latinosinkidlit.com/>

Library of Congress: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/for-teachers/>

## Public Libraries with Spanish Language Collections

Many public libraries in Westchester County have Spanish language collections for children. Here in the Rivertowns, there are small collections of Spanish language picture books in Dobbs Ferry and Hastings, while in Ardsley the collection is of a similar size but spans all ages. Irvington's collection was damaged by flooding and is currently very small but expanding. Tarrytown and Ossining have large Spanish language selections of fiction and nonfiction for all ages. City libraries like those in Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, and Mount Vernon are also good places to look. Many of the titles on this list are available in both Spanish and English -- please check the library catalog or call your library to see which they have.

## Booklist

Below is a list of published books. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available.

## Picture Book Fiction

- *Across the Bay* by Carlos Aponte ●
- *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal ●●
- *Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border* by Mitali Perkins ●
- *Carmela Full of Wishes* by Matt de la Peña ●●
- *Dora the Explorer* by various authors ●●
- *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *El Cucuy is Scared, Too!* by Donna Barba Higuero ●
- *Go, Diego, Go!* by various authors ●
- *I Wish You Knew* by Jackie Azua Kramer ●
- *Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor ●●
- *Looking for Bongo* by Eric Velasquez ●

- *Mango, Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina ●●
- *Maria Had a Little Llama* by Angela Dominguez ●
- *Marta! Big & Small* by Jen Arena ●
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero ●●
- *Octopus Stew* by Eric Velasquez ●
- *Paletero Man* by Lucky Diaz ●
- *La Princesa and the Pea* by Susan Middleton Elya ●●
- *Rainbow Weaver* by Linda Elovitz Marshall ●
- *Rudas: Niño's Horrendous Hermanitos* by Yuyi Morales ●
- *Stella's Stellar Hair* by Yesenia Moises ●
- *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat!* by Raúl the Third ●●
- *Viva Frida* by Yuyi Morales ●●
- *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez ●●

### Nonfiction Picture Books

- *Areli Is a Dreamer : A True Story* by Areli Morales ●
- *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales ●●
- *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Caleveras* by Duncan Tonatiuh ●●
- *A Girl named Rosita : The Story of Legendary Puerto Rican Performer Rita Moreno* by Anika Denise ●
- *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* by Kathleen Krull ●●
- *I Am Frida Kahlo* by Brad Meltzer ●
- *Nacho's Nachos: The Story Behind the World's Favorite Snacks* by Sandra Nickel ●
- *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpre* by Anika A. Denise ●●
- *Selena: Queen of Tejano Music* by Silvia López ●
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh ●
- *Sharuko: Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello* by Monica Brown ●
- *Turning Pages* by Sonia Sotomayor ●●
- *Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown ●●

### Early Chapter Books

- *Definitely Dominguita* series by Terry Catasús Jennings ●
- *Juana and Lucas* by Juana Medina ●●
- *Lola Levine* series by Monica Brown ●
- *Sofia Martinez* series by Jacqueline Jules ●●
- *Stella Diaz* series by Angela Dominguez ●

### Middle Grade Fiction

- *Before We Were Free* and other titles by Julia Alvarez ●●
- *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls* by Kaela Rivera ●
- *Cuba in My Pocket* by Adrianna Cuevas ●
- *Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros ●●
- *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya ●●
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan ●●
- *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez ●●
- *Forest World* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *How to Make Friends with the Sea* by Tanya Guerrero ●
- *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by Marjorie Agosin ●●
- *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar ●●
- *Mañanaland* by Pam Muñoz Ryan ●●
- *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya ●●
- *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina ●●
- *90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis ●●

- *The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz ●●
- *The Other Half of Happy* by Rebecca Balcarel ●●
- *Rooting for Rafael Rosales* by Kurtis Scarletta ●
- *Sarai and the Meaning of Awesome* (and other books in the series) by Sarai Gonzalez and Monica Brown ●
- *Stef Soto, Taco Queen* by Jennifer Torres ●
- *Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh* by Uma Krishnaswami ●
- *The Storm Runner* by Jennifer C. Cervantes ●●
- *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* by Adrianna Cuevas ●

### Middle Grade Graphic Books

- *Big Apple Diaries* by Alyssa Bermudez ●
- *Lowriders in Space* by Cathy Camper ●
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson ●●

### Middle Grade Nonfiction

- *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor ●●
- *Bravo! Poems about Amazing Hispanics* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *The Champion's Game* by Saul Ramirez & John Seidlitz ●
- *My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero ●●
- *Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist* by Sylvia Acevedo ●●
- *Yes! We Are Latinos: Poems and Prose about the Latino Experience* by Alma Ada Flor & F. Isabel Campoy ●●

### YA Fiction

- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz ●●
- *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas ●●
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo ●●
- *The Education of Margot Sanchez* by Lilliam Rivera ●●
- *Furia* by Yamile Saied Mendez ●●
- *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez ●●
- *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez ●●
- *Jazz Owls* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabby Rivera ●●
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ●●
- *Sanctuary* by Paola Mendoza ●●
- *The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle ●●
- *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo ●●

### YA Nonfiction

- *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario ●●