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/

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
- Paletro 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 Agosín
- 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