

Hispanic/Latino Children's Books

Revised
October 2004

- Ada, A. F. Gathering the sun. (1997). New York: Lothrop. Ages 4-8.
Using all twenty-eight letters of the Spanish alphabet as a template on each page, Alma Flor Ada has written a special poem in Spanish for each. Each poem is written in honor of the history, culture, families, heritage, and harvest of Mexican farm workers.
- Ada, A. F. My name is María Isabel. (1993). New York: Simon & Schuster. Grade 7 - up.
This story is about a young girl who enters a new school and on her first day is stripped of her rightful name because there already are too many Marías in the class. In a world where she is unable to express herself because of the stigma of having her name changed, María Isabel responds through her writing which becomes the tool for her to regain her rightful identity.
- Altman, L. J. Amelia's Road. (1993). New York: Lee and Low Books. Ages 3-10
Americans Description: Tired of moving around so much, Amelia, the daughter of migrant farm workers, dreams of a stable home.
- Calhoun, M. Tonio's Cat. (1996) New York: Morrow Junior Books. Ages 4-8.
Set in California, this story deals with Tonio's new arrival and the adjustments he faces. He must adjust to leaving his dog behind. He must learn to interact with new children who tease him and his cat.
- Castaneda, O. Abuela's Weave. (1993). New York: Lee and Low Books. Ages 5- 9.
A young Guatemalan girl and her grandmother grow closer together as they weave some special creations and then make a trip to the market in hopes of selling them. (Bilingual).
- Chavarria-Chairez, B. Magda's Tortillas/Las tortillas de Magda. (2000). Houston: Arte Público Press.
Age: 7 - up
Magda is excited about her seventh birthday; her *abuela* is showing her how to make tortillas. But no matter how hard Magda tries to roll the dough into round spheres, she can't.
- Cisneros, S. Hairs/Pelitos. (1994). New York: Alfred A. Knoph. All Ages 4-8.
A child describes how each person in the family has hair that looks and acts different; Papa's like a broom, Kiki's like fur, and Mama's with the smell of warm bread.
- Crowley, J. Gracias-the Thanksgiving turkey. (1998). New York: Scholastic. Ages 4-8.
Miguel, a young Puerto Rican boy, doesn't go anywhere without his turkey--to the delight of everyone in his New York City neighborhood.
- Dorros, A. Isla/Island. (1995). New York: Dutton Children's Books. Grades 2 - up.
A young girl and her grandmother take an imaginary journey to the Caribbean island where her mother grew up and where some of her family still lives.
- Dorros, A. (1991). Abuela/Grandmother. New York: Dutton children's Books. Ages 4-8.
A little girl imagines that she and her abuela (Spanish for 'grandmother') can fly. The pair enjoy an aerial tour of their city, visiting people and sites important to the grandmother's past.

- Elya, S.M. (2002) Home at Last. New York: Lee and Low Books. Ages: 9-12
When she and her family move from Mexico to the United States, eight year old Ana helps her mother adjust to the new situation by encouraging her to learn English.
- English, K. (2000). Speak English for Us, Marisol. Illinois: Albert Whitman. Ages: 6-8
Marisol, who is bilingual, is sometimes overwhelmed when her Spanish-speaking family members and neighbors need her to translate for them.
- Garcia, M. (1994). The Adventures of Connie and Diego. Children's Book Press. Ages 6-up
Tired of being teased because they were born with different colors all over their bodies, Connie and Diego leave the Land of Plenty. A contemporary legend of mixed-race twins who search for a place to belong.
- Gonzalez, R. & Ruiz. A. (1995). My First Book of Proverbs/Mi primer libro de dichos. San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Grades 4 - up.
- Herrera, P. (2004). Featherless/Desplumado. San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Ages 7-up
Although Tomasito's spina bifida keeps him in a wheelchair, where he often feels so confined as his flightless and featherless pet bird, he discovers that he can feel free when he is on the soccer field.
- Jimenez, F. La Mariposa. (1998). Boston: Houghton-Mifflin. Ages 6 - up.
Because he can only speak Spanish, Francisco, son of a migrant worker, has trouble when he begins first grade, but his fascination with the caterpillar in the classroom helps him begin to fit in.
- Krull, K. Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez. (2003). New York: Harcourt. Ages 6 -9.
A biography of Cesar Chavez, a union organizer for the rights of farm workers.
- Lachtman, O. D. Pepita Thinks Pink. (2001). Houston: Arte Público. Grades K -up.
Pepita is excited about her new neighbor until she sees that she likes pink—a color Pepita really hates.
- Lachtman, O. D. Big Enough/Bastante Grande. (1998). New York: Arte Público. Grades K - up.
Lupita is sure that she is big enough to help at her mother's Mexican restaurant, but her mother doesn't agree.
- Lachtman, O. D. Pepita Talks Twice. (1995). Houston: Arte Público. Grades K- 2.
Pepita is sick of translating for friends and neighbors—so she decides to stop speaking Spanish, but soon finds this is easier said than done.
- Lopez, L. The Birthday Swap. (1997). New York: Lee and Low Books. Ages 6 -8.
Lori is trying hard to come up with a birthday surprise for her older sister, Cookie, but as she soon finds out, Cookie has a surprise for her.
- Mohr, N. Felita. (1996). New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing. Ages 8-up.
The everyday experiences of an eight-year-old Puerto Rican girl growing up in a close-knit, urban community.
- Mohr, N. All For The Better: a Story of el Barrio. (1993). New York: Steck-Vaugh. Grades 2-5.
During the dark days of the Great Depression, eleven-year-old Evelina Lopez leaves Puerto Rico to live with an aunt in New York city. Evelina learns that one person can make a difference as she adjusts to life in her new home.

- Mohr, N. Going Home. (19786). New York: Bantam Books. Ages 7- 10.
Feeling like an outsider when she visits her relatives in Puerto Rico for the first time, eleven –year-old Felita finds herself having to come to terms with the heritage she always took for granted.
- Montes, M. Get Ready for Gabi. (2003). New York: Scholastic Inc. Ages 7-up.
Gabi has issues. Her arch nemesis Johnny Wiley keeps teasing her about her name, her little brother gets bullied by some boys down the street, and Gabi has to give up her bedroom when Abuelita comes to visit. It's more than one wiry little third-grader can handle.
- Mora, P. Confetti: poems for children. (1996). New York: Lee & Low. Ages 4 - up.
Spanish words are incorporated naturally into this bright collection of poems that depict a day's activities in the Southwest. Vivid illustrations complement the verse to evoke the author's Mexican American background.
- Mora, P. Tomás and the Library Lady. (1997). New York: Alfred Knoph. Grades K-2.
While helping his family in their work as migrant laborers far from their home, Tomás finds an entire world to explore in the books at the local public library.
- Mora, P. A Birthday Basket for Tía. (1996). New York: Simon and Schuster. Ages 7-up.
A young girl and her cat, Chica, put together a birthday surprise for her aunt.
- Mora, P. Pablo's Tree. (1994). New York: Simon Schuster. Ages 4-8.
Each year on his birthday, a young Mexican American boy looks forward to seeing how his grandfather has decorated the tree he planted on the day the boy was adopted.
- O'Neil, A. Estela's Swap. (2002). New York: Lee & Low Books. Ages: 6-8.
A young Mexican American girl accompanies her father to a swap meet, where she hopes to sell her music box for dancing lessons.
- Perez, L.K. First Day in Grapes. (2002). New York: Lee & Low Books. Ages 6 -10.
Chico's family moves up and down the state of California picking fruits and vegetables. Every September, Chico starts at a new school. Often, the other kids pick on him — maybe because he's always new, or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. But third grade promises to be different. He likes his teacher, and she recognizes his excellent abilities in math — he may even get to go to the math fair! When some fourth-grade bullies tease him, he surprises them with strengths of his own.
- Pico, F. The Red Comb. (1991). Mexico: Bridge Water Books. Grades 2 - up.
Set in 19th century Puerto Rico, a young girl, together with an elderly neighbor work to help a runaway slave.
- Reiser, L. Margaret/Margarita. (1993). New York: Greenwillow. Ages pre-k -up.
Margaret, who only speaks English, and Margarita, who only speaks Spanish, meet in the park and have fun playing together.
- Rodriquez, D. Diego Wants to be. (1994). Wisconsin: Highsmith Press. Grades 1-3.
Diego doesn't want to be a child. He imagines himself being a fish, a bird, and a dog instead of a little boy. When he grows old he wishes to be a child again, but realizes that is too late.
- Romero-Stevens, J. Carlos and the Squash Plant. (1993). Arizona: Northland Publishing. Grades K-3.
Carlos dislikes taking baths and chooses to ignore his mother's warnings of what will happen if he doesn't wash the dirt out of his ears.

Soto, G. Chato's Kitchen. (1995). New York: C. P. Putnam's Sons. Grades 2-4.

A "cool cat" named Chato decides he would like to have his neighbors, a family of mice, over for dinner. The mouse family, smelling a rat, ask if their friend can come along. When Chato discovers the friend is a "cool dog," he panics.

Soto, G. Too Many Tamales. (1993). New York: Putnam's Sons. Grades K-3.

Any child who has ever delighted in a forbidden snack or tried to cover up a mistake will enjoy reading this wonderful Christmas story that reflects the holiday traditions of Latino culture.

Wing, N. Jalapeño Bagels. (1996). New York: Simon & Schuster. Ages 4-8

A warm family story set in a bakery owned by Pablo's Mexican mother and Jewish father. When Pablo needs to bring something to school from his culture for International Day he turns to his parents' bakery and chooses something that represents both cultures - just like him! Includes glossary and recipes.