

## Recommended Books for English Language Learners



The following books recommended by Colorín Colorado celebrate Latino/Latin American cultures, families, and children. The books are organized by age and topic, and some books are listed under more than one topic. Many of the books are available in a bilingual or Spanish-language edition. Others incorporate Spanish-language words and phrases into the English-language text.

We encourage educators to use these books with students and families from all backgrounds, as well as to take a look at our other recommended books from Colorín Colorado, Reading Rockets, and AdLit.org. In addition, video interviews with many of the authors and illustrators featured in this section are available online.

### Key

\* Bilingual Book

\*\* Spanish Version Available

§ Pura Belpré Award Winner

### BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (AGES 0-5)

#### Board Books

*At the Beach/Vamos a la Playa* by Mandy Stanley \*

*Fiesta Babies* by Carmen Tafolla §

*I Am Latino: The Beauty in Me* by Sandra and Myles Pinkney

*Carry Me* by Rena D. Grossman \*\*

*Siesta* by Ginger Foglesong Guy \*\*

#### Early Learning: Alphabet Books

*ABeCedarios: Mexican Folk Art ABCs in English and Spanish* by Cynthia Weill \*

*Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English* by Alma Flor Ada \* §

*Welcome To My Neighborhood! A Barrio ABC* by Quiara Alegria Hudes \*\*

#### Early Learning: Colors

*Colores de la vida: Mexican Folk Art Colors in English and Spanish* by Cynthia Weill \*

*My Colors, My World/Mis Colores, Mi Mundo* by Maya Christina Gonzalez \* §

#### Early Learning: Counting

*Agua, Agua, Agua* by Pat Mora \*\*

*Build a Burrito: A Counting Book in English and Spanish* by Denise Vega \*

*Just a Minute!: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book* by Yuyi Morales §

*Uno, Dos, Tres: One, Two, Three* by Pat Mora \*

#### Early Learning: Opposites

*Opuestos: Mexican Folk Art Opposites in English and Spanish* by Cynthia Weill \*

*Quinito, Day and Night/Quinito, Día y Noche* by Ina Cumpiano \*

### PICTURE BOOKS BY TOPIC (AGES 6-9)

#### Adventures & Superheroes

*Elena's Serenade* by Campbell Geeslin \*\*

*Isla* by Arthur Dorros \*\*

*Maximilian and the Mystery of the Guardian Angel: A Bilingual Lucha Libre Thriller* by Xavier Garza \*§  
*Napí Goes to the Mountain* by Antonio Ramírez \*\*  
*Our California* by Pam Muñoz Ryan \*\*  
*Under the Lemon Moon* by Edith Hope Fine \*\*  
*Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Takes Off (Book 1 of the Zapato Power series)* by Jacqueline Jules

### **Biographies**

*A Library for Juana* by Pat Mora \*\*  
*Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* by Duncan Tonatiuh §  
*Frida* by Jonah Winter \*\*  
*Harvesting Hope: The Story of César Chávez* by Kathleen Krull \*\* §  
*My Name is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/Me llamo Celia: La vida de Celia Cruz* by Monica Brown \* §  
*My Name is Gabito: The Life of Gabriel García Márquez/Me llamo Gabito: La vida de Gabriel García Márquez* by Monica Brown \* §  
*My Name is Gabriela: The Life of Gabriela Mistral/Me llamo Gabriela: La vida de Gabriela Mistral* by Monica Brown \*  
*Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People* by Monica Brown  
*Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and César Chávez/Lado a lado: La historia de Dolores Huerta y César Chávez* by Monica Brown \*  
*Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx/La juez que creció en el Bronx* by Jonah Winter \*  
*Super Oscar* by Oscar de la Hoya  
*The Girl from Chimel* by Rigoberta Menchú  
*The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* by Lucía M. González \* §

### **Celebration**

*¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Latino Festivals* by Sherry Shahan  
*Hooray, A Piñata!* by Elisa Kleven \*\*  
*Naty's Parade* by Gina Freschet \*\*  
*Rafi and Rosi: Carnival! (I Can Read Book)* by Lulu Delacre \*\*  
*The Birthday Swap* by Loreta López \*\*  
*The Piñata Maker/El Piñatero* by George Ancona \*  
*The Rainbow Tulip* by Pat Mora

### **Community**

*Barrio: José's Neighborhood* by George Ancona \*\* §  
*Chato's Kitchen* by Gary Soto \*\* §  
*El Barrio* by Debbi Chocolate  
*Quinito's Neighborhood/El vecindario de Quinito* by Ina Cumpiano \*  
*Smoky Night* by Eve Bunting  
*The Bakery Lady/La señora de la panadería* by Pat Mora \*  
*The Park Our Town Built /El parque que nuestro pueblo construyó* by Diane Gonzales Bertrand \*

### **Family**

*A Day at the Fair* by Lesléa Newman \*\*  
*Antonio's Card/La Tarjeta de Antonio* by Rigoberto González \*  
*Calling the Doves/El canto de las palomas* by Juan Felipe Herrera \*  
*Cleaning Day* by D. H. Figueredo \*\*  
*Dear Primo* by Duncan Tonatiuh §  
*Estela's Swap* by Alexis O'Neill \*\*  
*Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia* by Carmen Lomas

Garza \* §

*Home At Last* by Susan Middleton Elya

*In My Family/En mi familia* by Carmen Lomas Garza \* §

*Love to Mamá: A Tribute to Mothers* edited by Pat Mora

*Mamá and Me* by Arthur Dorros

*Mi Familia/My Family* by George Ancona \*

*My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito* by Amada Irma Pérez \*

*On Our Farm* by Laura E. Williams \*\*

*Papá and Me* by Arthur Dorros

*Papi's Gift* by Karen Stanton

*René Has Two Last Names /René tiene dos apellidos* by René Colato Lainez \*

*What Can You Do With a Paleta?/¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* by Carmen Tafolla \*

*What Can You Do with a Rebozo?/¿Qué puedes hacer con un rebozo?* by Carmen Tafolla \* §

#### **Family: Grandparents**

*A Perfect Season for Dreaming/Un tiempo perfecto para soñar* by Benjamin Alire Saenz \*

*Abuela* by Arthur Dorros \*\*

*Abuelita: Full of Life/Llena de vida* by Amy Costales \*

*Braids/Trecitas* by Kathleen Contreras \*

*Butterflies on Carmen Street/Mariposas en la calle de Carmen* by Monica Brown \*

*Grandma's Gift* by Eric Velasquez §

*I Love Saturdays y domingos* by Alma Flor Ada

*Little Mamá Forgets* by Robin Cruise

*My Grandma/Mi Abuelita* by Ginger Foglesong Guy \*

*Nana's Big Surprise/Nana, ¡Qué Sorpresa!* by Amada

Irma Pérez \*

*Playing Lotería /El juego de la lotería* by René Colato Lainez \*

*The Most Beautiful Place in the World* by Ann Cameron

#### **Folk Tales and Legends from the Americas**

*Cuckoo: A Folktale from Mexico/Cucú: Un cuento folklórico mexicano* by Lois Ehlert \*

*Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart* by Pat Mora §

*Fiesta Feminina: Celebrating Women in Mexican Folktales* by Mary-Joan Gerson

*Golden Tales: Myths, Legends, and Folktales from Latin America* by Lulu Delacre

*Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* by Carmen Agra Deedy \*\* §

*Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la llorona* by Gloria Anzaldúa \*

*Tales Our Abuelitas Told: A Hispanic Folktale Collection* by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada

*The Honey Jar* by Rigoberta Menchú

*The Roadrunner's Dance* by Rüdolfo Anaya

*White Flower: A Maya Princess* by Víctor Montejo

#### **Folk Tales: Adaptations of Classic Stories**

*Paco and the Giant Chile Plant/Paco y la planta de chile gigante* by Keith Polette \*

*The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred* by Samantha R. Vamos §

*The Pot That Juan Built* by Nancy Andrews-Goebel \*\*

*The Runaway Piggy/El cochinito fugitivo* by James Luna \*

## **Food**

- Bean Soup/Sopa de frijoles* by Jorge Argueta \*
- Chato's Kitchen* by Gary Soto \*\* §
- Delicious Hullabaloo/Pachanga deliciosa* by Pat Mora \*
- Meat Pies* by Celenia Chévere and Patricia M. Herbert \*\*
- Salsa Stories* by Lulu Delacre
- The First Tortilla: A Bilingual Story* by Rudolfo Anaya \*
- Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto \*

## **Friends**

- Lupe Vargas and Her Super Best Friend/Lupe Vargas y su súper mejor amiga* by Amy Costales \*
- My Pal, Victor/Mi amigo, Victor* by Diane Gonzales Bertrand \*

## **Good Night Stories**

- Poems to Dream Together/Poemas para soñar juntos* by Francisco X. Alarcón \*
- Sweet Dreams/Dulces Sueños* by Pat Mora
- Tooth on the Loose* by Susan Middleton Elya

## **Holiday**

### **Cinco de Mayo**

- Cinco de Mayo: Celebrating the Traditions of Mexico* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith
- Let Me Help!/¡Quiero ayudar!* by Alma Flor Ada \*

### **The Day of the Dead/Halloween**

- Calavera Abecedario: A Day of the Dead Alphabet Book* by Jeanette Winter
- Los Gatos Black on Halloween* by Marisa Montes §

- Pablo Remembers: The Fiesta of the Day of the Dead* by George Ancona \*\* §
- Uncle Monarch and the Day of the Dead* by Judy Goldman

## **Thanksgiving**

- Gracias, The Thanksgiving Turkey* by Joy Cowley \*\*
- Gracias/Thanks* by Pat Mora \* §

## **Christmas/Las Posadas**

- A Piñata in a Pine Tree: A Latino Twelve Days of Christmas* by Pat Mora
- Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story* by Tomie dePaola \*\*
- Charro Claus and the Tejas Kid* by Xavier Garza \*
- Going Home* by Eve Bunting
- La Nochebuena South of the Border* by James Rice
- Las Posadas: An Hispanic Christmas Celebration* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith
- N is for Navidad* by Susan Middleton Elya
- The Christmas Gift/El regalo de Navidad* by Francisco Jiménez \*
- The Legend of the Poinsettia* by Tomie dePaola \*\*
- The Night of Las Posadas* by Tomie dePaola
- The Road to Santiago* by D. H. Figueredo

## **Immigration & Migrant Stories**

- Alfredito Flies Home* by Jorge Argueta
- Amelia's Road* by Linda Jacobs Altman \*\*
- Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English* by Alma Flor Ada \* §
- From North to South* by René Colato Laínez \*
- Harvesting Hope: The Story of César Chávez* by Kathleen Krull \*\* §
- La Mariposa* by Francisco Jiménez \*\*

*My Diary from Here to There/Mi diario de aquí hasta allá* by Amada Irma Pérez \* §

*My Shoes and I* by René Colato Laínez

*Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and César Chávez/Lado a lado: La historia de Dolores Huerta y César Chávez* by Monica Brown \*

*The Remembering Stone* by Barbara Timberlake Russell

*When This World Was New* by D. H. Figueredo \*\*

*Xochitl and the Flowers/Xóchitl, la niña de las flores* by Jorge Argueta \*

### **Magic**

*Chavela and the Magic Bubble* by Monica Brown

*Magda's Piñata Magic* by Becky Chavarría-Chairez \*\*

*The Secret Legacy* by Rigoberta Menchú

*The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez* by René Colato Laínez

### **Markets**

*Abuela's Weave* by Omar S. Castañeda \*\*

*Carmen's Colors* by Maria Diaz Strom \*\*

*Grandma and Me at the Flea/Los Meros Meros Remateros* by Juan Felipe Herrera \*

### **Nature**

*Animal Poems of the Iguazú/Animalario del Iguazú* by Francisco X. Alarcón \*

*Hello Ocean/Hola Mar* by Pam Muñoz Ryan \*

*I Know the River Loves Me/Yo sé que el río me ama* by Maya Christina Gonzalez \*

*Napí* by Antonio Ramírez \*\*

*Talking with Mother Earth: Poems/Hablando con Madre Tierra: Poemas* by Jorge Argueta \*

### **Poems**

*A Movie in My Pillow: Poems/Una película en mi almohada: Poemas* by Jorge Argueta \*

*Confetti: Poems for Children* by Pat Mora \*\*

*Sol a Sol: Bilingual Poems/Sol a sol: Poemas bilingües* written and selected by Lori Marie Carlson \*

*¡Yum! ¡Mmmm! ¡Qué Rico!: America's Sproutings* by Pat Mora \*\*

### **Reading and Libraries**

*A Library for Juana* by Pat Mora \*\*

*Book Fiesta: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day/Celebremos El día de los niños/El día de los libros* by Pat Mora §

*The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* by Lucía M. González \* §

*Tomás and the Library Lady* by Pat Mora

*Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown

### **School**

*Armando and the Blue Tarp School* by Edith Hope Fine \*\*

*Carmen Learns English* by Judy Cox

*Get Ready for Gabi: A Crazy Mixed Up Spanglish Day* by Marisa Montes

*Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match /Marisol McDonald no combina* by Monica Brown \* §

*Moony Luna/Luna, Lunita Lunera* by Jorge Argueta \*

*No English* by Jacqueline Jules

*The Bus for Us/Nuestro Autobús* by Suzanne Bloom \*

## Seasons

### Fall

*Angels Ride Bikes and Other Fall Poems: Los ángeles andan en bicicleta* by Francisco X. Alarcón \*

### Winter

*Big Snowball Fight* by D. H. Figueredo \*\*

*Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems/Iguanas en la nieve y otros poemas de invierno* by Francisco X. Alarcón \* §

*Marco Flamingo/Marco Flamenco* by Sheila Jarkins \*

*When This World Was New* by D. H. Figueredo \*\*

### Summer

*Bebe Goes to the Beach* by Susan Middleton Elya

*From the Bellybutton of the Moon: And Other Summer Poems /Del ombligo de la Luna: Y otros poemas de verano* by Francisco X. Alarcón \* §

*Rafi and Rosi (I Can Read Book)* by Lulu Delacre \*\*

### Spring

*Laughing Tomatoes: And Other Spring Poems/Jitomates risueños: Y otros poemas de primavera* by Francisco X. Alarcón \* §

## Songs, Music, Dance

*Arroró, Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games* selected by Lulu Delacre §

*Arroz con leche: Popular Songs and Rhymes from Latin America* by Lulu Delacre

*Capoeira: Game! Dance! Martial Art!* by George Ancona

*De Colores and Other Latin American Folksongs for Children* by José-Luis Orozco

*My First Book of Proverbs/Mi primer libro de dichos* by Ralfka Gonzalez \*

*My Tata's Guitar/La guitarra de mí Tata* by Ethriam Cash Brammer \*

*¡Ole! Flamenco* written by George Ancona §

*¡Pío Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes* selected by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy \*\*

*Rin, Rin, Rin/Do, Re, Mi* by José-Luis Orozco \*

*Shake It, Morena! And Other Folklore from Puerto Rico* compiled by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

## Sports

*Baseball in the Barrios* by Henry Horenstein \*\*

*¡Béisbol!: Latino Baseball Pioneers and Legends* by Jonah Winter \*\*

*Featherless/Desplumado* by Juan Felipe Herrera \*

*Get Set! Swim!* by Jeannine Atkins \*\*

*Out of the Ballpark* by Alex Rodriguez \*\*

*Pelé: King of Soccer/El rey del fútbol* by Monica Brown \*

*Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates* by Jonah Winter

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (AGES 9-12)

### Children's Short Stories and Novels

*Baseball in April* by Gary Soto \*\* §

*Dancing Home* by Alma Flor Ada \*\*

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan \*\* §

*How Tía Lola Came to (Visit) Stay* by Julia Alvarez \*\*

*My Name is María Isabel* by Alma Flor Ada \*\*

*My Papa Diego and Me: Memories of My Father and His Art /Mi papá Diego y yo: Recuerdos de mi padre y su arte* by Guadalupe Rivera Marín \*

*Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez \*\* §  
*Spirits of the High Mesa* by Floyd Martinez §  
*Star in the Forest* by Laura Resau  
*The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jiménez \*\*  
*The Day It Snowed Tortillas/El día en que nevaron tortillas* by Joe Hayes  
*The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan \*\* §  
*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros \*\*  
*Tortilla Sun* by Jennifer Cervantes  
*Under the Royal Palms* by Alma Flor Ada \*\* §

#### **Wordless Books**

- *Ah-Choo!* by Mercer Mayer
- *The Angel and the Soldier Boy* by Peter Collington
- *Ben's Dream* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *A Boy, A Dog, and A Frog* by Mercer Mayer
- *Changes, Changes* by Pat Hutchins
- *Clown* by Quentin Blake
- *Deep in the Forest* by Brinton Turkle
- *Frog Goes to Dinner* by Mercer Mayer
- *Frog on His Own* by Mercer Mayer
- *Frog, Where Are You?* by Mercer Mayer
- *Good Dog Carl* by Alexandra Day
- *The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher* by Molly Bang
- *The Hunter and the Animals* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Midnight Circus* by Peter Collington
- *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier
- *Pancakes for Breakfast* by Tomie dePaola

- *Peter Spier's Christmas* by Peter Spier
- *Peter Spier's Rain* by Peter Spier
- *Rainy Day Dream* by Michael Chesworth
- *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins
- *Sector 7* by David Wiesner
- *The Silver Pony* by Lyn Ward
- *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs
- *Time Flies* by Eric Rohmann
- *Tuesday* by David Wiesner

#### **Learn more:**

For more information on these and more books and authors please visit:

Colorín Colorado: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/read/>

Reading Rockets: <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/>

AdLit.org: [http://www.adlit.org/books\\_authors/](http://www.adlit.org/books_authors/)

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