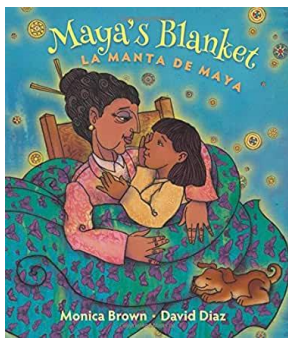


Text Set 6: Latinx families and Communities

Summary: The Latinx population is expansive and diverse in culture. However, for many groups, a commonality between them is the importance and presence of family. This text set celebrates the complexities of family dynamics and the notions of collectivism that hold strength and value for Latinx groups.

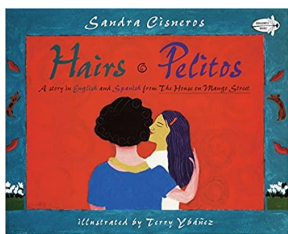
Picturebooks

	<p><i>I Love Saturdays y Domingos</i> By: Alma Flor Ada & Elvia Savadier (illus.)</p> <p>Saturdays and Sundays are very special days for the child in this story. On Saturdays, she visits Grandma and Grandpa, who come from a European-American background, and on Sundays -- <i>los domingos</i> -- she visits <i>Abuelito y Abuelita</i>, who are Mexican-American. While the two sets of grandparents are different in many ways, they also have a great deal in common -- in particular, their love for their granddaughter.</p>
	<p><i>Family Poems For Everyday of the Week / Poemas familiares para cada día de la semana</i> By: Francisco X. Alarcón & Maya Christina Gonzalez (illus.)</p> <p>This bilingual collection of poems takes us through the week day by day. Children spend Sunday visiting their grandparents, playing with school friends on Monday, daydreaming on Tuesday, eating popcorn at the local market on Wednesday, and more, until we arrive on Saturday, when they get to play nonstop all day. Along the way, we also learn how the names of the seven days came to be. Partly based on the real life experiences of Alarcón's own family, this festive, celebratory collection of poems highlights the daily life of children while also honoring the experiences of the poet's Latino family in the United States.</p>



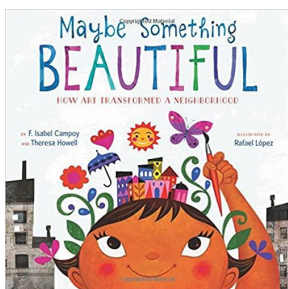
Maya's Blanket/La Manta de Maya
By: Monica Brown & David Diaz (illus.)

Little Maya has a special blanket that Grandma stitched with her own two hands. As Maya grows, her blanket becomes worn and frayed, so with Grandma's help, Maya makes it into a dress. Over time the dress is made into a skirt, a shawl, a scarf, a hair ribbon, and finally, a bookmark. Each item has special, magical, meaning for Maya; it animates her adventures, protects her, or helps her in some way. But when Maya loses her bookmark, she preserves her memories by creating a book about her adventures and love of these items.



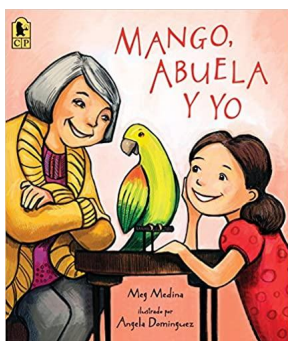
Hairs Pelitos
By: Sandra Cisneros and Terry Ybáñez (illus.)

A vignette from Sandra Cisneros's prolific book, *The House on Mango Street* shows, through simple, intimate portraits, the diversity among us.



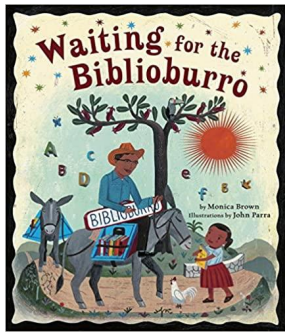
Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood
By: F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell (illus.)

What good can a splash of color do in a community of gray? As Mira and her neighbors discover, more than you might ever imagine! Based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California, *Maybe Something Beautiful* reveals how art can inspire transformation—and how even the smallest artists can accomplish something big. Pick up a paintbrush and join the celebration!



Mango Abuela Y Yo
By Meg Medina & Angela Dominguez (illus.)

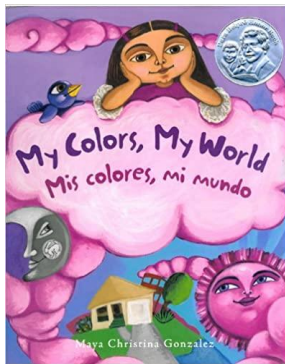
Mia's abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. While they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English, and Mia learns some Spanish, too, but it's still hard for Abuela to learn enough words to tell Mia her stories. Then Mia sees a parrot in the pet-shop window and has the perfecto idea for how to help them all communicate a little better.



Waiting for the Biblioburro

By: Monica Brown & John Parra (illus.)

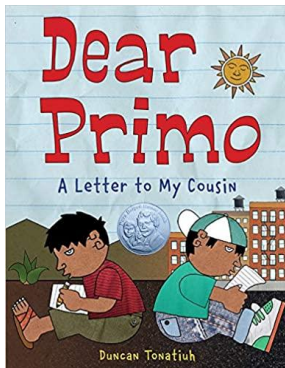
Ana loves stories. She often makes them up to help her little brother fall asleep. But in her small village there are only a few books and she has read them all. One morning, Ana wakes up to the clip-clop of hooves, and there before her, is the most wonderful sight: a traveling library resting on the backs of two burros—all the books a little girl could dream of, with enough stories to encourage her to create one of her own.



My Colors, My World / Mis colores, mi mundo

By: Maya Christina Gonzalez

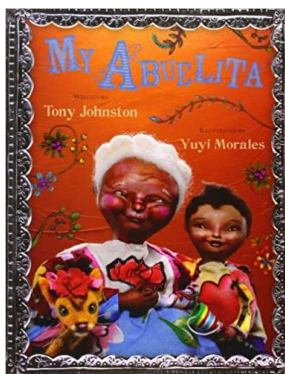
Maya longs to find brilliant, beautiful color in her world. But when the wind blows, desert sand covers everything, and turns her whole neighborhood the color of dust. Maya searches high and low to find the colors in her world. And she does—in the vibrant purple of her Mama's flowers, the juicy green of a prickly cactus, the hot pink clouds at sunset, and the shiny black of her Papi's hair.



Dear Primo

By Duncan Tonatiuh

Two cousins—one in the United States and one in Mexico—learn their lives aren't so different through their letters.



My Abuelita

By: Tony Johnston & Yuyi Morales (illus.)

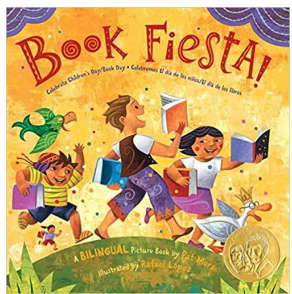
Abuelita's hair is the color of salt. Her face is as crinkled as a dried chile. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. She stuffs her *carcacha*--her jalopy--with all the things she needs: a plumed snake, a castle, a skeleton, and more. Her grandson knows he has the most amazing grandmother ever--with a very important job. What does Abuelita do? With her booming voice and wonderful props, Abuelita is a storyteller.



My Papi Has a Motorcycle

By: Isabel Quintero & Zeke Peña (illus.)

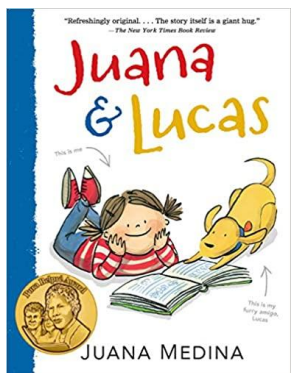
When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. But as the sun sets purple-blue-gold behind Daisy Ramona and her papi, she knows that the love she feels will always be there.



Book Fiesta

By: Pat Mora & Rafael López (illus.)

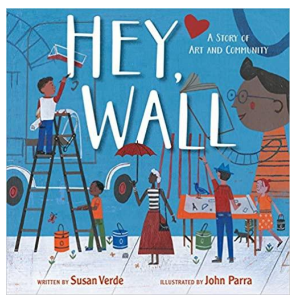
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Juana & Lucas

By: Juana Medina

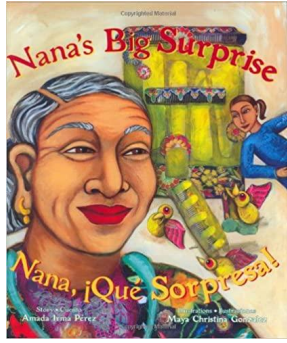
Where could Little Night be? Down a rabbit hole? In a blueberry field? Among the stripes of bees? As the long day comes to an end, Mother Sky fills a tub with falling stars and calls, "Bath time for Little Night!" Little Night answers from afar, "Can't come. I am hiding and you have to find me, Mama. Find me now!"



Hey Wall

By: Susan Verde & John Parra (illus.)

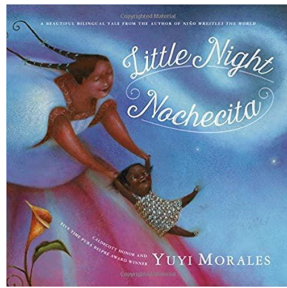
There is a wall in Ángel's neighborhood. Around it, the community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. Not the wall. It is bleak. One boy decides to change that. But he can't do it alone.



Nana's Big Surprise/ ¡Nana, Qué Sorpresa!

By: Amada Irma Pérez & Maya Christina Gonzales (illus.)

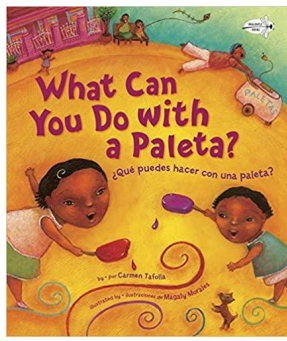
Nana's visit from Mexico should be a joyous occasion. But this summer she's coming to California because Tata has died. Amada and her five brothers hope to cheer her up with a surprise gift of a coop full of fluffy yellow chicks just like the ones Nana raised with Tata in Mexico. But no matter how hard everyone tries to make Nana feel better, it seems like nothing can bring a smile to her face.



Little Night/Nochita

By: Yuyi Morales

Mother Sky calls for her baby -- Nochita or Little Night to take her bath as the day comes to an end. Mother and child engage in a fun game of hide and seek in this beautifully illustrated bilingual book.



What Can You Do With a Paleta?/ Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?

By: Carmen Tafolla & Magaly Morales (illus.)

A young girl reflects on the comforts of her home in the barrio as she considers all of the fun the paleta man brings to her neighborhood.

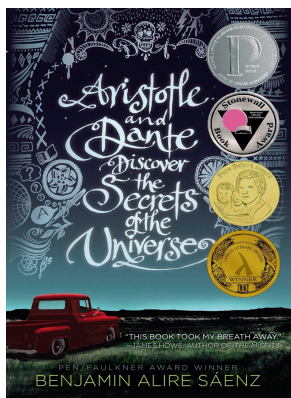
Young Adult & Middle Grade Novels



Clap When You Land

By: Elizabeth Acevedo

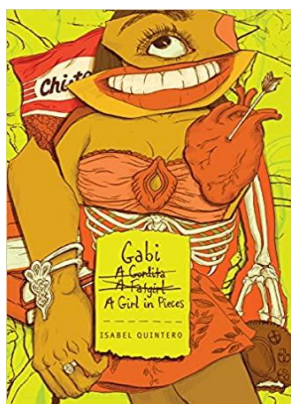
As two sisters lose their father in a terrible plane crash, they learn more about their families and begin to question exactly who their father was. This novel, written in verse, explores grief, love, and the complex nature of family.



Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

By: Benjamin Alire Sáenz

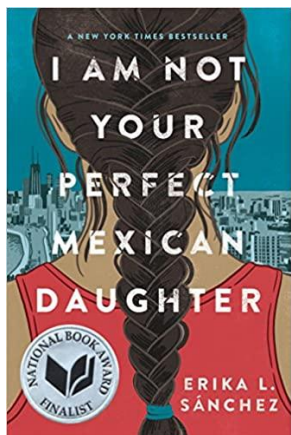
When Aristotle meets Dante, he is a loner who doesn't mind keeping to himself. Dante is a vibrant extrovert who sees the world in his own unique way. When the two meet at a public swimming pool, they become unlikely friends. However, they discover that their friendship is unique and life-changing in a way that surprises and takes Aristotle aback.



Gabi A Girl in Pieces

By: Isabel Quintero

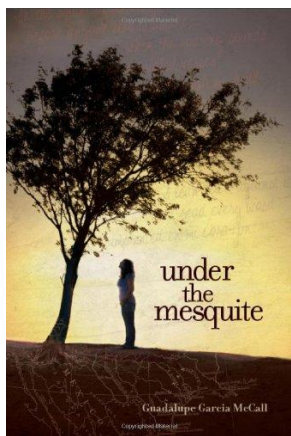
This story follows a young girl Gabriella as you follow her coming of age and reflections of her culture and identity.



I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

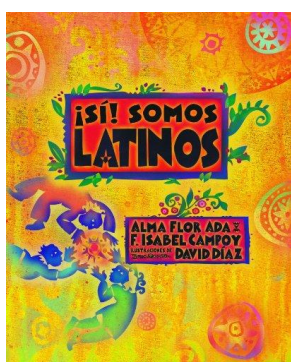
By: Erika L. Sánchez

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought.



Under the Mesquite
By: Guadalupe Garcia McCall

When Lupita learns Mami has cancer, she is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of her close-knit family. Suddenly, being a high school student, starring in a play, and dealing with friends who don't always understand, become less important than doing whatever she can to save Mami's life.



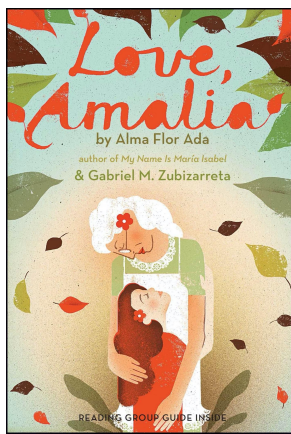
!Si Somos Latinos!

This book is a collection of various poems by thirteen young Latinx living in America. This book celebrates the rich diversity of the Latinx experience in the United States today, recently sharing the voices of those who know what it is like to grow up in a country and having a dual culture of being both Latinx and American.



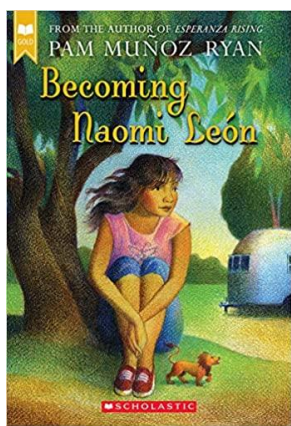
Merci Suárez Changes Gears
By Meg Medina

Merci Suárez is struggling in her new school. For starters she is there on a scholarship while many of her peers can afford being at the school on their own. Merci is unlike her peers, she is not rich or has a fancy house. To make matters worse, something is going on with her grandfather. Yet, no one will really tell her what that is exactly. Can Merci find out the truth and most importantly find her place at her new school?



Love, Amalia
By: Alma Flor Ada & Gabriel M. Zubizarreta

Amalia's best friend is moving away and Amalia isn't too happy about that. Yet, when she thinks of life as unfair, Amalia finds the wise words of her *abuelita* a relief. She learns from her *abuelita* stories, cooking, music, and learns about her family. But, when another loss shakes Amalia's life even more nothing seems to make sense. Can Amalia realize how special she is and comfort in her grandmother's words even though those she loves are no longer near her?



Becoming Naomi León
By: Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi has always lived with her brother and grandmother. Until one day, she gets a visit from her birth mother whom she hasn't seen for most of her life. Naomi wants to be with her mother, but how if she is never really around and has a drinking problem. To make matters worse, Naomi's mother is fighting to get custody of her and her brother. Naomi feels conflicted and needs to find a way to stay with her grandmother. She needs the help of her father, who has been missing from her life and the only way to get to him is to cross the border into Mexico.

Articles:

NPR, *New Groups Aim To Get More Latinx Stories To Young Readers*:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/28/916980190/new-groups-aim-to-get-more-latinx-stories-to-young-readers>

Videos:

What does it mean to be Mexican-American?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXrvQWUWJBA>

Sana sana:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GFf-c8Rcac>

Keeping Tradition Alive: Ballet Folklórico

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rouXWIE7Upc>

Miguel sings to Mamá Coco

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqpBt5STusE>

Music:

Linda Ronstadt, Los laureles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTUESfwdOOE>

Los Panchos, Las mañanitas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQ3U8bc5fDs>

Proud Corazón: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0lchjz1RQg>

Como La Flor, Selena: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwZTgDjRLM0>

Additional Titles on Latinx Experiences in the United States

Altman, L. (1995). *Amelia's road* (E. Sanchez, Illus.). Lee &Low Books.

Díaz, L. (2021). *Paletero man* (M. Player, Illus.). Harper Collins.

Herrera, J.F. (2006). *The upside down boy/el niño de cabeza* (E. Gomez, Illus.). Children's Book Press.

Laínez, R. (2004). *Waiting for papa/ esperando a papá* (A. Accardo, Illus.). Piñata Books.

Lachtman, O. (1995). *Pepita talks twice/ pepita habla dos veces* (A. Delange, Illus). Arte Público Press.

López, S. (2020). *Selena: queen of tejano music* (P. Escobar, Illus.). Little Bee Books.

Mora, P. (2016). *I pledge allegiance* (P. Barton, Illus.). Dragonfly Books.

Morales, A. (2021). *Areli is a dreamer* (L. Uribe, Illus.). Random House Studio.

Perez, L.K. (2014). *First day in grapes* (R. Casilla, Illus.). Lee & Low Books.