

Culturally Affirming Latina/o Children's & Young Adult Literature

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This list is not exhaustive but rather a starting point. Feel free to email suggestions.



****books with **** have a social justice message or are of historical importance books in
italics are bilingual.

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PK-2 Picture Books
Alphabet, Shapes, Numbers

1. ****A de activista (Spanish Edition)**
by Martha E. Gonzalez
2. ****A is for Activist (English Edition)**
by Innosanto Nagara
3. **Los Mariachis** by Rita Rosa Ruesaga
4. **My Colors, My World: Mis colores, Mi Mundo**
by Maya Christina Gonzalez
5. **Just a Minute: A Trikster Tale and Counting Book.** by Yuyi Morales
6. **Just a Minute: A Trikster Tale and Alphabet Book.** by Yuyi Morales
7. **Uno, Dos, Tres: One, Two, Three** by Pat Mora
8. **Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors**
by Roseanne Greenfield Thong
9. **Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes**
by Roseanne Greenfield Thong
10. **¡Marimba! Animales from A to Z.**
by Alma Flor Ada
11. **1,2, 3 Sí!: Numbers in English y Español.**
San Antonio Museum of Art Trinity University
12. **Señor Pancho Had a Rancho**
by René Colato Laínez
13. **The Tooth Fairy Meets el Ratón Pérez**
by René Colato Laínez
14. **Playing Lotería / el juego de la lotería**
by René Colato Laínez
15. ****René has Two Last Names / René tiene dos apellidos** by René Colato Laínez
16. ****Soy René el niño / I am René, the Boy**
by René Colato Laínez
17. ****Waiting for Papá/ Esperando a Papá**
by René Colato Laínez
18. ****Amigos del otro / Friends From the Other Side** by Gloria Anzaldúa
19. **Prietita and the Ghost Woman / Prietita y La Llorona** by Gloria Anzaldúa
20. **Santiago el Soñador Entre Las Estrellas**
por Ricky Martin
21. **Santiago the Dreamer in the Land Among the Stars** by Ricky Martin
22. **What can you do with a Paleta? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?** – Carmen Tafolla
23. **What can you do with a Rebozo? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con un rebozo?** by Carmen Tafolla
24. **Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina** by Mónica Brown
25. **Marisol McDonald and the Clash Bash: Marisol McDonald y la fiesta sin igual**
by Mónica Brown
26. **Maya's Blanket: La manta de Maya**
by Mónica Brown
27. ****My Name is Celia / Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz**
by Mónica Brown
28. ****Tito Punte, Mambo King/Tito Punte, Rey del Mambo** by Mónica Brown
29. ****Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx / La juez que creció en el Bronx**
by Jonah Winter
30. ****Frida: (Spanish language edition)**
by Jonah Winter
31. ****Frida: (English language edition)**
by Jonah Winter
32. **Elena's Serenade** by Campbell Geeslin
33. **I know the River Loves Me / Yo sé que el río me ama** by Maya Christina González
34. **La mujer que brillaba aún más que el sol / The Woman Who Outshone the Sun**
by Alejandro Cruz Martínez
35. **In my Family / En mi family**
by Carmen Lomas Garza
36. **Family Picture / Cuadros de familia**
by Carmen Lomas Garza
37. **The Upside Down Boy/El niño de cabeza**
by Juan Felipe Herrera
38. **Super Cilantro Girl / La supermiña del cilantro** by Juan Felipe Herrera
39. **A Perfect Season for Dreaming / Un tiempo perfecto para soñar** by Benjamín Alire Sáenz
40. **The Bakery Lady/La Señora de la Panadería**
by Pat Mora

PK-2 Picture Books Alphabet, Shapes, Numbers

41. I Pledge Allegiance by Pat Mora
42. ****A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana** by Pat Mora
43. ****Una biblioteca para Juana** por Pat Mora
44. **Tomás and the Library Lady** by Pat Mora
45. **Tomás y la señora de la biblioteca** por Pat Mora
46. **A Piñata in a Pine Tree: A Latino Twelve Days of Christmas** by Pat Mora by Pat Mora
47. **The Desert Is My Mother / El desierto es mi madre** by Pat Mora
48. **The Night the Moon Fell: A Maya Myth** by Pat Mora
49. **La Noche que se cayó la luna (un mito maya)** por Pat Mora
50. **Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart** by Pat Mora
51. **Floating on Mama's Song / Flotando En La Canción de Mamá** by Laura Lacamara
52. **Dalia's Wondrous Hair / El cabello maravilloso de Dalia** by Laura Lacamara
53. **A Gift for Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead / Un regalo para Abuelita: En celebración del Día de los Muertos** by Nancy Luern
54. **Papá and Me** by Arthur Dorros
55. ****Harvesting Hope: The Story of César Chávez** by Kathleen Krull
56. **Niño Wrestles the World** by Yuyi Morales
57. **Hair / Pelitos** by Sandra Cisneros
58. **Too Many Tamales** by Gary Soto
59. **Un montón de tamales** by Gary Soto
60. **Chato's Kitchen** by Gary Soto
61. **Chato and the Party Animals** by Gary Soto
62. **The Lizard and the Sun / La Lagartija y el Sol** by Alma Flor Ada
63. **The Runaway Piggy/ El Cochinito fugitive** by James Juna
64. **Tía Isa Quiere Un Carro** by Meg Medina
65. **Lucía the Luchadora** by Cynthia Leonor Garza
66. **The Great and Mighty Nikko** by Xavier Garza
66. **Once Around the Block/ Una Vuelta a la Manzana** by José Lozano
67. **Little Chanclas** by José Lozano

Early Chapter Books – Grade 1-2

1. **Sofia Martínez Series**
by Jacqueline Jules (Series of books)
2. **Zapato Power Series**
by Jacqueline Jules (Series of books)
3. **My Migrant Family Story / La history de mi familia migrante** by Lily García

Poetry

1. ****A Movie in My Pillow / Una película en mi almohada** by Jorge Argueta (Poetry)
2. ****Talking with Mother Earth / Hablando con madre tierra: Poems / Poemas** by Jorge Argueta
3. **From the Bellybutton of the Moon: And Other Summer Poems / Del Ombligo de la Luna: Y Otros Poemas de Verano** by Francisco X. Alarcón
4. **Yum! Mmm! Que Rico! Americas' Sproutings** by Pat Mora (Poetry – Haikus)

3rd Grade Picture Books

1. **Zulema and the Witch Owl / Zulema y la bruja lechuza** by Xavier Garza
2. ****Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin.** by Duncan Tonatiuh
3. ****Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale** by Duncan Tonatiuh
4. **Charro Claus and the Tejas Kid** by Xavier Garza

3rd Grade Chapter Books

1. **The Lemon Tree Caper: A Mickey Rangel Mystery / La intriga del limonero** by René Saldaña
2. **The case of the pen gone missing / El caso de La pluma perdida** by René Saldaña
3. **Me llamo María Isabel** por Alma Flor Ada
4. **Marisol and Magdalena: The Sound of Our Sisterhood** by Verónica Chambers
5. **Across the Great River** by Irene Beltran Hernandez
6. **The Missing Chanclita and Other Top-Secret Cases / La chanclita perdida y otros casos secretos** by Alidis Vicente

4th Grade Picture Books

1. ****That's not Fair! Emma Tenayuca's Struggle for Justice / ¡No es Justo! La Lucha de Emma Tenayuca por la justicia** por Carmen Tafolla.
2. **Mimi's Parranda/La parranda de Mimi**
by Lydia M. Gil Piñata Books: Arte Público Press, 2006
3. **Juan y el chupacabras / Juan and the Chupacabras** by Xavier Garza
4. **Lucha Libre / The Man in the Silver Mask**
by Xavier Garza
5. ****Diego Rivera: His World and Ours**
by Duncan Tonatiuh
6. ****Calling the Doves/El canto de las palomas**
by Juan Felipe Herrera
7. **Grandma and Me at the Flea/Los meros meros remateros** by Juan Felipe Herrera
8. **The Honey Jar** by Rigoberta Menchú
9. ****César: ¡Sí se puede! Yes, We Can.**
by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand (Poetry)
10. ****Diego: Bigger Than Life**
Carmen T. Bernier-Grand (Poetry)
11. **El Zipitio** by Jorge Argueta
12. **Drum Dream Girl**
by Margarita Engle
13. **Una niña un Tambor Un Sueño**
by Margarita Engle
14. **Mr. Mendoza's Paintbrush** by Luís Alberto Urrea

4th Grade Chapter Books

1. **Maximilian & the Mystery of the Guardian Angel: A Bilingual Lucha Libre Thriller**
by Xavier Garza
2. **Maximilian & the Bingo Rematch: A Lucha Libre Sequel** by Xavier Garza
3. ****Gaby, Lost and Found** by Angela Cervantes
4. **The Dreamer / El soñador** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
5. ****César Chávez (Bilingual Graphic Novel)**
by Elizabeth Hudson-Goff
6. **A Mummy in Her Backpack** by James Luna
7. **Maximiliano and the Lucha Libre Club**
by Xavier Garza
8. **Creepy Creatures and Other Cucuys**
by Xavier Garza

5th Grade Picture Books

1. ****Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation**
by Duncan Tonatiuh
2. ****Lado a Lado: La historia de Dolores Huerta y César Chávez/Side by Side: The History of **Dolores Huerta and César Chávez**
by Monica Brown
3. ****Cosechando esperanza: La historia de César Chávez** by Kathleen Krull
4. **Abuela's Weave** by Omar Castañeda
5. **¡Sí, Se Puede! / Yes, We Can!: Janitor Strike in L.A.** by Diana Cohn

5th Grade Chapter Books

1. ****Esperanza Rising** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
2. ****Esperanza Renace** por Pam Muñoz Ryan
3. **Becoming Naomi León** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
4. **Yo, Naomi León** por Pam Muñoz Ryan
5. ****La Causa: The Migrant Workers' Story**
by Dana Catherine de Ruiz
6. ****Return to Sender** by Julia Alvarez
7. ****Devolver al Remitente** by Julia Alvarez
8. **De cómo tía Lola vino (de visita) a quedarse**
by Julia Alvarez
9. **How Tía Lola Came to Visit and Stay**
by Julia Alvarez
10. **Tortilla Sun** by Jennifer Cervantes
11. **Quinceañera Means Sweet Fifteen**
by Verónica Chambers
12. **Wild Girl** by Patricia Reilly Griff
13. **Hunters of Chaos** by Crystal Velasquez
14. **Baseball in April and other Stories**
by Gary Soto
15. **Béisbol en abril y otros cuentos**
por Gary Soto
16. **Con cariño, Amalia** by Alma Flor Ada
17. **Dancing Home** by Alma Flor Ada
18. **Salsa Stories** by Lulu Del Acre
19. **Merci Suárez Changes Gears**
by Meg Medina

Poetry

1. **The Wild Book** by Margarita Engle

**Young Adult Literature (Middle Grades
& High School)**

1. **Burn Baby Burn** by Meg Medina
2. **The Education of Margot Sanchez**
by Lilliam Rivera
3. **Mexican White Boy** by Matt de la Peña
4. **Juliet Takes a Breath** by Gabby Rivera
5. **Crossing the Line** by Malín Alegría
6. **More Happy Than Not** by Adam Silvera
7. **Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass**
by Meg Medina
8. **Shadowshaper** by Daniel José Older
9. **The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano**
by Sonia Manzano
10. **I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter**
by Erika L. Sánchez
11. **Finding Miracles** by Julia Alvarez
12. **The Firefly Letters** by Margarita Engle
13. **Journey of Dreams** by Marge Pellegrino
14. **Enrique's Journey** by Sonia Nazario
15. **The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind**
by Meg Medina
16. **La Linea** by Ann Jaramillo
17. **Summer of the Mariposas**
by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
18. **Silver People** by Margarita Engle
19. **The distance between us**
(Young Readers Edition) by Reyna Grande
20. **Tequila Worm** by Viola Canales
21. **Ask My Mood Ring how I Feel** by Diana López
22. **Lucky Luna** by Diana López
23. **Confetti Girl** by Diana López
24. **Choke** by Diana López
25. **Under the Mesquite**
by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
26. **All the Stars Denied**
by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
27. **Shame the Stars** by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
28. **House on Mango Street** by Sandra Cisneros
29. **And the Earth did Not Swallow Him**
by Tomás Rivera
30. **The Circuit** by Francisco Jimenez
31. **Bless Me, Última** by Rudolfo Anaya
32. **The Inexplicable Logic of My Life**
by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
33. **Mexican White Boy** by Matt De La Peña
34. **Gabby, Lost & Found** by Angela Cervantes
35. **Echo, The Dreamer** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
36. **Gabi, A Girl in Pieces** by Isabel Quintero
37. **We were Here** by Matt De La Peña
38. **I am Alfonso Jones** by Tony Medina
39. **They Call Me Güero** by David Bowles
40. **The Smoking Mirror** by David Bowles
41. **The Hidden City** by David Bowles
42. **A Kingdom Beneath the Waves** by David Bowles
43. **So Hard to Say** by Alex Sanchez
44. **Dreams of Significant Girls**
by Cristina García
45. **The Afterlife** by Gary Soto
46. **More Happy than Not** by Adam Silvera
47. **The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano**
by Sonia Manzano
48. **Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of
the Universe** by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
49. **The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest
Abolitionist** by Margarita Engle
50. **Dark Dude** by Oscar Hijuelos
51. **When the Stars Go Blue**
by Barbara Caridad Ferrer
52. **The Living** by Matt de la Peña
53. **Extraction** by Stephanie Diaz
54. **The Gateway Through Which They Came**
by Heather Marie
55. **The First Rule of Punk** by Celia C. Pérez
56. **They Both Die at the End** by Adam Silvera
57. **Bravo!: Poems About Amazing Hispanics**
by Margarita Engle
58. **Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet
Folklórico de México** by Duncan Tonatiuh
59. **Multicultural Literature for Latino
Bilingual Children: Their Words, Their Worlds**
by Ellen Rojas Clark, Belinda Flores, Howard L.
Smith, Daniel Alejandro González
60. **A Thunderous Whisper**
by Christina Diaz Gonzalez
61. **The Girl at Midnight** by Melissa Grey
62. **The Weight of Feathers**
by Anna-Marie McLemore
63. **I Will Save You** by Matt De La Peña
64. **History is All You Left Me** by Adam Silvera
65. **Accidental Love** by Gary Soto
66. **Labryinth Lost** by Zoraida Cordova
67. **Merci Suárez Changes Gears** by Meg Medina
68. **The Firefly Letters** by Margarita Engle
69. **The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind**
by Meg Medina

**Young Adult Literature (Middle Grades
& High School)**

- 70. **They call me Guero (Poetry)** by David Bowles
- 71. **The smoking Mirror: Garza Twins Book One**
by David Bowles
- 72. **A Kingdom Beneath the Waves: Garza Twins
Book two** by David Bowles
- 74. **The Hidden City: Garza Twins Book Three**
by David Bowles