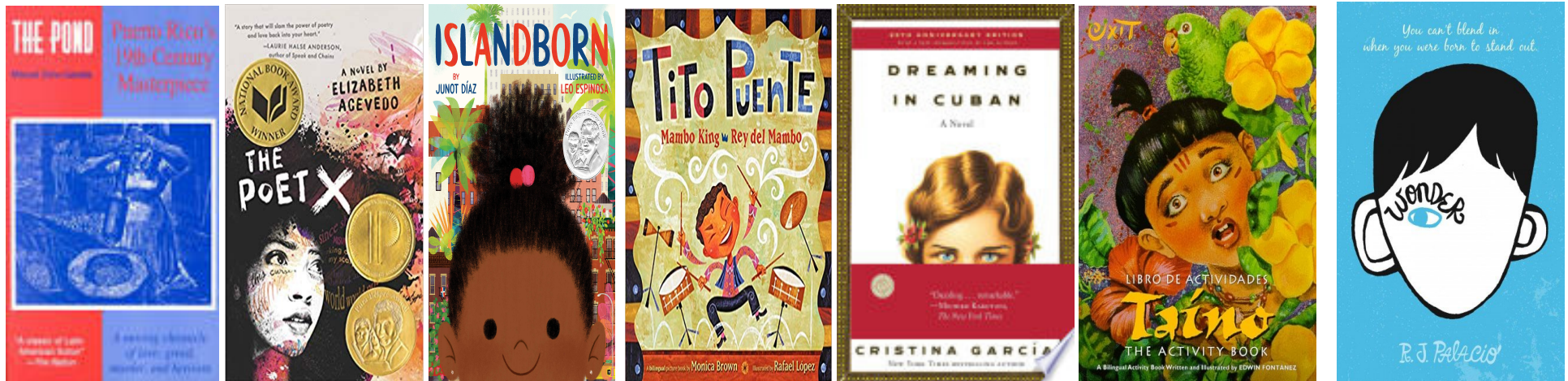


Culturally Relevant Literature for Classroom Use

An Instructional Support tool for Standard English Learners (SELs) & ELLs

Recommended Caribbean Latino / Latino American Literature Titles by Grade Level



What is Culturally Relevant Literature?

Culturally Relevant Literature makes critical connections to who students are. It reflects the culture, history, and experiences of students and builds on the cultural capital they bring to the learning environment to enhance learning. Access to culturally relevant literature that motivates students to engage with print is important to both language and literacy acquisition.

Culturally Relevant Literature...

- Uses student's culture and prior experiences to make learning relevant
- Reflects the day-to-day experiences and activities of students
- Shows the student's culture and history positively and accurately
- Celebrates the culture and traditions of the student
- Students can identify with the struggles and lives of the characters
- Often includes the home language of students
- Comes in various genres (realistic and historical fiction, folktales, poetry, non-fiction, biographies/autobiographies) to tell the story of the people.

Reference: V. Harris (1993)

How to Use Culturally Relevant Books in the Classroom

- ☐ Teachers should have a Culturally Relevant Classroom Library of at least 200 titles that represent the language, culture, and experiences of the students in their classroom, including Standard English Learner (SEL) populations
- ☐ Books should be displayed in the classroom in an inviting and accessible manner
- ☐ Students should be provided with opportunities— throughout the school day— to engage in Free Voluntary Reading (FVR) and Silent Sustained Reading (SSR)
 - o As SELs engage with print they intuit the structure of language
 - o “The more students read the better they read and the better they write”
 - o Books in the classroom can serve as models of Standard English for SELs
- ☐ Reading to SELs on a daily basis supports the acquisition of language and literacy skills
 - o Being read to is often not a part of the early literacy experiences of SELs so the classroom has to become the venue for developing emergent literacy skills and an appreciation of books
- ☐ Books on tape should be made accessible to SELs through Listening Centers so they can hear the language of school modeled
- ☐ Encourage students to check-out books for personal enjoyment
- ☐ Use books that incorporate the home language of SELs for “Contrastive Analysis” activities

Lemoine & Associates Educational Consulting

Caribbean Latino & Latino American Literature For Classroom Use

Grades Kindergarten through High School

Grade	Title	Author	NOTATIONS
Kinder & 1 st	Tito Puente: Mambo King/ Rey del Mambo	Monica Brown	Bilingual Spanish/ English Text
Kinder & 1 st	How Far Do You Love Me	Lulu Delacre	English Text
Kinder & 1 st	Gilberto and the Wind	Marie Hall Ets	English Text
Kinder & 1 st	Mango, Abuela, and Me	Meg Median	English Text and Spanish
Kinder & 1 st	Juan Bobo Goes to Work	Marisa Montes	English Text / Some Spanish
Kinder & 1 st	Starring Carmen!	Anika Denise & Lorena Alvarez Gómez	English Text / Some Spanish
Kinder & 1 st	Taino: The Activity Book	Edwin Fontanez	Educational bilingual activity book has beautiful drawings to color, puzzles, and games to play. With historical notes, a glossary, and an extensive bibliography.
Kinder & 1 st	What Can You Do With a Paleta / ¿Qué Puedes Hacer	Carmen Tafolla	Bilingual Text / English and Spanish

	con una Paleta?		
Kinder & 1 st	Juan Bobo: Four Folktales from Puerto Rico	Carmen T. Bernier-Grand	English Text / Can Purchase Spanish Version
Kinder & 1 st	De Colores and Other Latin American Folksongs for Children	Ed. Jose Luis Orozco	English Text / Some Spanish
Kinder & 1 st	The Bossy Gallito	Retold by Lucia M. González	English Text / Some Spanish with Glossary
Kinder & 1 st	Doña Flor	Pat Mora	English Text
Kinder & 1 st	The Enchanted Legend of the Coquí	Ed Rodríguez	Spanish Text
Kinder & 1 st	Braids / Trencitas	Kathleen Contreras	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish

Caribbean Latino & Latino American Literature For Classroom Use

Grades Kindergarten through High School

Grade	Title	Author	NOTATIONS
2 nd & 3 rd	The Lizard and the Sun/ La lagartija y el sol	Alma Flor Ada	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish
2 nd & 3 rd	Tan to Tamarind	Malathai Iyengar	English Text / Some Spanish
2 nd & 3 rd	¿ Y Por qué?	Georgina Lázaro León & Antonio Martorell	Spanish Text: A conversation between a grandfather and his grandson who continually asks difficult questions about life.
2 nd & 3 rd	Grandma's Records & Grandma's Gift	Eric Velasquez	Some Spanish/English dominant text
2 nd & 3 rd	Clemente	Willie Perdomo	English Text
2 nd & 3 rd	The Storyteller's Candle	Lucia Gonzalez	English Text
2 nd & 3 rd	The Golden Flower	Nina Jafe	English Text
2 nd & 3 rd	Por ahí viene el huracán	Laura Rexach Olivencia & Mya Pagan	Spanish Text

2 nd & 3 rd	Beba and Little Sister Island/Beba y La Isla Nena	Rafael Landrón	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish
2 nd & 3 rd	Listening with my Heart	Gabi García	English Text
2 nd & 3 rd	The Composition	Antonio Skarmeta & Alfonso Ruano	English Text
2 nd & 3 rd	IslandBorn	Junot Díaz	English Text / Available in Spanish
2 nd & 3 rd	There's a Coquí in my Shoe	Marisa de Jesus Paolicelli	English Text / Some Spanish
2 nd & 3 rd	The Stories I Read to the Children	Lisa Sánchez González	English text. A collection of 40 of Belpré's stories and essays
2 nd & 3 rd	Tai Goes Fishing	Editorial El Antillano (DVD included)	English Text / Available in Spanish
2 nd & 3 rd	The Color of My Words	Lynn Joseph	English Text
2 nd & 3 rd	Yes! We Are Latinos	Alma Flor	English Poetry-Prose / Some Spanish

Caribbean Latino & Latino American Literature For Classroom Use <i>Grades Kindergarten through High School</i>			
Grade	Title	Author	NOTATIONS
4 th & 5 th	Under the Royal Palms	Alma Flor Ada	English Text
4 th & 5 th	Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré	Anika Aldamuy Denise	English Text
4 th & 5 th	Schomburg: The Man Who Built the Library	Carol Boston Weatherford & Eric Velasquez	English Text
4 th & 5 th	Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge grows in the Bronx/ La juez que creció en el Bronx	Jonah Winter	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish
4 th & 5 th	Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir	Margarita Engle	English Text / Some Spanish
4 th & 5 th	Manuel and the Lobsterman	Cat Urbain	English Text
4 th & 5 th	Carlos Santana: Sound of the Heart, Song of the World	Gary Golio	English Text / Some Spanish
4 th & 5 th	My Havanah: Memories of a	Secundino Fernandez Rosemary	English Text / Some Spanish

	Cuban Boyhood	Wells	
4 th & 5 th	Tai: A Young Taino Boy	Neco Otero	A graphic novel about everyday life of a young Taino boy.
4 th & 5 th	Something Wicked's in Those Woods	Marisa Montes	English Text
MS	Stella Diaz Has Something to Say	Adriana Dominguez	English Text / Some Spanish
MS	The Epic Fall of Arturo Zamora	Pablo Cartaya	English Text / Some Spanish
MS	My Year in the Middle	Lila Quintero Weaver	English Text / Some Spanish

Caribbean Latino & Latino American Literature For Classroom Use <i>Grades Kindergarten through High School</i>			
Grade	Title	Author	NOTATIONS
MS	An Island Like You	Judith Ortiz Cofer	English Text
MS	Felita	Nicholasa Mohr	English Text / Some Spanish
MS	Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring	Angela Cervantes	English Text
MS	Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes	Juan Felipe Herrera	English Text
MS	Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish	Pablo Cartaya	English Text / Some Spanish
MS	Before We Were Free	Julia Alvarez	English Text / Some Spanish
MS	Silver Meadows Summer	Emma Otheguy	English Text
MS	90 Miles to Havana	Enrique Flores-Galbis	English Text
MS	The Legend of Ni Rahú Cave/ Leyenda de la Cueva Ni Rahu	Lynne Guitar, Ph.D.	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish

MS	Boys to Men/Niños a Hombres	Lynne Guitar, Ph.D.	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish
MS	New Beginning in Baoruko/Nuevo Comienzo en Baoruko	Lynne Guitar, Ph.D.	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish
MS	What will the Future Bring/Qué Traerá el Futuro	Lynne Guitar, Ph.D.	Bilingual Text: English and Spanish
MS	NY Times Bestseller/Motion Picture: Wonder	R.J. Palacio	English Text
MS	Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories	Raquel Jaramillo Palacio	English Text
MS	365 Days of Wonder	Raquel Jaramillo Palacio	English Text
MS	We're All Wonders	Raquel Jaramillo Palacio	English Text
MS	The Julian Chapter	Raquel Jaramillo Palacio	English Text
MS	Our Story Begins: Your Favorite.	Raquel Jaramillo Palacio	English Text
MS	Shinglaling: A Wonder Story	Raquel Jaramillo Palacio	English Text

MS	How Tía Lola Came to Stay	Julia Alvarez	English Text
MS	Each Tiny Spark	Pablo Cartaya	English Text
MS	El Lector	William Durbin	English Text
MS	Tai Plays Ball	Editorial el Antillano	English Text / Can find Spanish version
MS	Return to Sender	Julia Alvarez	English Text
MS	House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	English Text
MS	Going Home	Nicholasa Mohr	English Text
HS	Pride of Puerto Rico: The Life of Roberto Clemente	Paul Robert Walker	English Text
HS	Norton Anthology of Latino Literature	General Editor: Ilan Stavans	English Text (Some titles in anthology were written originally in Spanish. Could research titles and locate Spanish edition of those respective titles for SLA)
HS	Drown	Junot Díaz	English Text
HS	The Pond	Dr. Manuel Zeno Gandía	English Text / Available in Spanish: (La Charca)
HS	100 Years of Solitude	Gabriel García Márquez	English Text / Available in Spanish: Cien Años de Soledad

HS	Insularismo: An Insight into the Puerto Rican Character	Antonio S. Pedreira	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	The Feast of the Goat	Mario Vargas Llosa	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Puerto Rico: What Everyone Should Know	Jorge Duany	English Text
HS	Bless Me Ultima	Rudolfo Anaya	English Text
HS	I, Rigoberta Menchu	Elisabeth Burgos-Debray and Rigoberta Menchú	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Jose Martí: Selected Writings	Jose Marti / Esther Allen	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Dreaming in Cuban	Cristina García	English Text
HS	Bodega Dreams	Ernesto Quiñones	English Text
HS	The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao	Junot Díaz	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Cuba Libre	Nicolás Guillén, translated by Langston Hughes	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Soledad	Angie Cruz	English Text
HS	Harvest of Empire	Juan Gonzalez	English Text

HS	With the Fire on High	Elizabeth Acevedo	English Text
HS	Alabanza	Martín Espada	English Text
HS	In the Time of the Butterflies	Julia Álvarez	English Text
HS	When the García Girls Lost Their Accents	Julia Álvarez	English Text
HS	El Super	Iván Acosta	English Text
HS	Residence on Earth	Pablo Neruda	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Woman Hollering Creek	Sandra Cisneros	English Text
HS	Song of the Simple Truth: The Complete Poems of Julia de Burgos	Julia de Burgos	Bilingual Text
HS	How to Date a Brown Girl	Junot Díaz	English Text
HS	Almost a Woman	Esmeralda Santiago	English Text
HS	America's Dream	Esmeralda Santiago	English Text
HS	Let in Rain Coffee	Angie Cruz	English Text
HS	The Dominican Republic: A National History	Frank Moya-Pons	English Text
HS	When I was Puerto Rican	Esmeralda Santiago	English Text

HS	Azucar the Story of Sugar	Alan Cambeira	English Text
HS	The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	English Text / Available in Spanish and Portuguese
HS	Cuentos escritos en el exilio	Juan Bosch	Spanish Text
HS	The Kingdom of this World	Alejo Carpentier, translated by Harriet de Onis	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Redeemers: Ideas and Power in Latin America	Enrique Krauze	English Text
HS	Geographies of Home	Loida Maritza Perez	English Text
HS	Don Quixote de la Mancha	Miguel de Cervantes	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	Stories from el Barrio	Juan Pedro Thomas	English Text
HS	The Lesser Tragedy of Death	Cristian García	English Text
HS	Axolotl	Julio Cortázar	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	City of Beasts	Isabel Allende	English Text / Available in Spanish
HS	The Poet X	Elizabeth Acevedo	English Text
HS	Bendición: The Complete Poetry of Tato Laviera	Tato Laviera	English Text / Some Spanish

HS	Erased Faces	Graciela Límon	English Text / Some Spanish
HS	Men of Maize	Miguel Ángel Asturias	English Text
HS	Boricuas: Influential Puerto Rican Writings - An Anthology	Roberto Santiago	English Text / Some Spanish
HS	The Ladies' Gallery: A Memoir of Family Secrets	Irene Vilar	English Text
HS	The Boy Without a Flag	Abraham Rodríguez	English Text
HS	We the Animals	Justin Torres	English Text
HS	Crow Blue	Adriana Lisboa	English Text / Some Portuguese
HS	Taíno Sunrise: An Odyssey	Victor Rodriguez	English Text

This list of titles was created to assist teachers in the ELA class, to ensure literature used in the class would be more representative of students. This list also needs to begin considering the SLA class from 7-11. It is a working document that is frequently looking into new titles and other anthologies, books of poetry, non-fiction articles, Lexile levels, links to synopsis, themes, vocabulary, and guides to teaching titles.