

Latina Resources for Girls

Picture Books

Altman, Linda Jacobs, Sánchez, Enrique O. (Ill.), & Santacruz, Daniel (Trans). (1993). *El camino de Amelia*. New York: Lee & Low. ISBN 1880000075.

Spanish. Cultural focus: Migrant farm family.

Amelia hates roads because they always lead her and her migrant farm worker family to yet more places in which she feels no ownership or permanence. She finds an “accidental path” that leads her to a majestic tree with deep roots, and she finds comfort in its permanence and discovers a way to put down roots herself. A child’s view of migrant family lifestyle, albeit somewhat glossed-over, that can provide a good way to speak to children who have to pack up and move every few months.

Baca, Ana, Accardo, Anthony (Ill.), & Castilla, Julia Mercedes (Trans). (1999). *Benito’s bizcochitos / Los bizcochitos de Benito*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN 1558852646.

Bilingual. Cultural focus: Latino general.

A girl and her grandmother are making a traditional sweet Christmas cookie, and the grandmother shares the legend of how the cookies came to be. Includes a recipe in both languages. Good translation.

Carlson, Lori Marie, Lisker, Emily (Ill.), & de Zacklin, Lydia Aponte (Trans.). (1998). *Sol a sol: Bilingual poems*. New York: Holt. ISBN 080504373X.

Bilingual poetry. Cultural focus: Caribbean.

Poems about the simple pleasures of life (cooking, chocolate, the cat) and family relationships. Some very tender moments; simple language, both Spanish and English.



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(Picture Books, cont'd)

Castañeda, Omar, Sánchez, Enrique O. (Ill.), & Marcuse, Aída E. (Trans.). (1995). *El tapiz de abuela*. New York: Lee & Low. ISBN 1880000083.

Spanish. Cultural focus: Mayan culture (Guatemalan setting, also appropriate to southern Mexico).

A girl from a small indigenous village weaves with her grandmother so that they can take crafts to sell in the market in the city. The girl is overwhelmed by the city and is afraid that machine-made crafts will be more attractive to buyers than her hand-woven goods. Culturally accurate illustrations include appropriate clothing, symbols, activities, hairstyles, and housing.

Colón-Vilá, Lillián, & Collier-Morales, Roberta (Ill.). (1998). *Salsa*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN 1558852204.

Bilingual. Cultural focus: Caribbean.

A little girl gives a description of salsa music and its instruments, and expresses a desire to be a salsa someday herself. Excellent use of instrument vocabulary with appropriate pictures, and the story gives a good sense of salsa rhythm, which beats deep into Caribbean culture.

Delgado, María Isabel, & Symank, Yvonne (Ill.). (1996). *Chave's memories / Los recuerdos de Chave*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books, 1996. ISBN 1558850848.

Bilingual. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Chave remembers vacations that her family would take to visit her grandparents in Mexico. Excellent illustrations.

Dorros, Arthur, Dorros, Sandra Marulanda (Trans.), & Kleven, Elisa (Ill.). (1995). *Abuela*. New York: Puffin Books. ISBN 0140562265.

Spanish. Cultural focus: Caribbean.

A little girl and her grandmother visit a New York City park; they imagine flying over the town together and visiting people they know. The magical realism makes this tale very culturally appropriate.

(Picture Books, cont'd)

Dorros, Arthur, & Kleven, Elisa (Ill.). (1995). *Isla*. New York: Dutton. ISBN 0525451498.

English peppered with Spanish words. Cultural focus: Caribbean.

A little girl and her grandmother “fly” to the grandmother’s native island through the grandmother’s stories about her life there before coming to America. The girl can feel a tie with the island she has never been to because of her strong tie with her grandmother. Culturally appropriate illustrations include Caribbean Spanish words for foods.

Estes, Kristyn Rehling, & Cotts, Claire B. (Ill.). (1999). *Manuela’s Gift*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books. ISBN 0811820858.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Manuela is disappointed when she receives a different dress than the one she wanted for her birthday because times are hard for the family. She comes to realize that the truly important things are not things at all, but the love and dedication of her family.

Fine, Edith Hope, Moreno, René King (Ill.), & de la Vega, Eida (Trans.). (1999). *Bajo la luna de limón*. New York: Lee & Low. ISBN 1880000903.

Spanish. Cultural focus: U.S. Southwest.

A little girl has a lemon tree that suddenly gets sick! She prays for La Anciana to come and tell her how to cure her lemon tree. Strong emphasis on folk culture. Note: Mexican children, particularly recent immigrants, may find references to “limones” confusing; in Mexico, “limón” refers to limes, and the pictures show lemons. U.S. Latinos will probably not have this difficulty.

Garza, Carmen Lomas, Rohmer, Harriet, & Zubizarreta, Rosalma (Trans.). (1990). *Family pictures / Cuadros de familia*. San Francisco: Children’s Book Press. ISBN 0892390506.

Bilingual. Cultural focus: Mexican-American/Texas.

Children’s picture book depicting vignettes from childhood memories of artist Carmen Lomas Garza, who does the illustrations herself. Lovely illustrations reminiscent of Mexican artists such as Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Simple language.

(Picture Books, cont'd)

Gollub, Matthew, & Martínez, Leovigildo (Ill.). (1997). *The moon was at a fiesta*. Santa Rosa, CA: Tortuga Press. ISBN 1889910112.

English (also available in Spanish). Cultural focus: Mexico (specifically Oaxaca).

A legend about the moon, who was jealous because the sun got to witness all the fiestas and celebrations and she did not. It is an explanation of why people from Oaxaca say “The moon was at a fiesta” when they wake up and see the moon and the sun in the sky together. Use of legend and sayings very culturally appropriate.

Hayes, Joe, Mlawer, Teresa (Trans.), & Hill, Vicki Trego (Ill.). (1994). *Watch out for clever women / Cuidado con las mujeres astutas*. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press. ISBN 0938317202.

Bilingual.

Collection of five traditional Hispanic folk tales celebrating the intelligence and strength of women.

Kurusa, Doppert, Monika (Ill.), & Englander, Karen (Trans.). (1995). *The streets are free*. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Annick Press. ISBN 1550373706.

English. Cultural focus: Venezuelan.

The children of Caracas’ poor San José barrio are looking for a place to play other than the street. They go to the Mayor and ask him to build them a playground, but his initial campaign promises go unanswered. The community decides to band together and build the playground themselves. A wonderful story about a community that takes a stand together.

Lachtman, Ofelia Dumas, Canetti, Yanitzia (Trans.), & Sánchez, Enrique O. (Ill.). (1998). *Big enough / Bastante grande*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN 1558852212.

Bilingual.

Lupita is tired of people telling her she’s too little. So she decides to prove to them that she is big enough! Good translation.

(Picture Books, cont'd)

Lachtman, Ofelia Dumas, & DeLange, Alex Pardo (Ill.). (1995). *Pepita talks twice / Pepita habla dos veces*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN 1558850775.

Bilingual. Cultural focus: U.S. Latino general.

Pepita is bilingual and is tired of having to translate for everyone all the time, so she decides not to speak Spanish anymore! She later discovers how valuable it is to speak two languages.

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse. (1994). *Frida María: A story of the Old Southwest*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt. ISBN 0152015159.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Not content to stay at home to cook and sew, Frida María dreams of riding her horse in the town fiesta, but her mother won't let her because she thinks Frida María needs to settle down and be a proper señorita. In the end, though, Frida María's strong, boisterous personality wins out. A fascinating tale about a strong, independent girl.

López, Loretta. (1997). *The birthday swap*. New York: Lee & Low. ISBN 1880000474.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Lori wants to get her sister a special surprise for her birthday party, during which all the family gathers in Mexico for a huge celebration. But it turns out that everyone surprises Lori! Great illustrations accurately depict birthday festivals in Mexico.

Mora, Pat, & Lechon, Daniel (Ill.). (1994). *The desert is my mother / El desierto es mi madre*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN: 1558851216.

Bilingual illustrated poem. Cultural focus: Mexico/Southwest.

Poem about the richness of the desert; a metaphor of the strength of a mother and her ability to be every thing to a daughter. Beautiful poetry, visually stunning.

Mora, Pat, & Sánchez, Enrique O. (Ill.). (1996). *Confetti: Poems for children*. New York: Lee & Low. ISBN 1880000253.

English, peppered with Spanish words.

Excellent illustrations include appropriate symbols from Mexico and the American Southwest.

(Picture Books, cont'd)

Rossi, Joyce, & Davison, Patricia Hinton (Trans.). (1995). *The gullywasher / El chaparrón torrencial*. Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon. ISBN 0873587286.

Bilingual. Cultural focus: Mexican-American/Southwest country.

A little girl asks her grandfather how he became old, and he invents tall tales to explain his white hair, big belly, wrinkles and curved back. Good traditional family focus, emphasizing positive relationships with father figures. Funny!

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, Sasso, Dennis C. (Trans.), & Bryer, Diana (Ill.). (2005). *Las matzás secretas de Abuelita*. Cincinnati, OH: Emmis Books. ISBN 1578602122.

Spanish (English version available from Emmis). Cultural focus: Jewish.

Little Hispanic boy notices that his new Jewish neighbor shares some of the same customs as his Catholic grandmother. His grandmother tells him that their family IS Jewish and generations ago had to escape persecution in Spain and flee to the New World. They found more persecution in the New World, however, and selected one person in each generation to guard the secret of their heritage and keep their traditions alive secretly.

Soto, Gary, & Martinez, Ed (Ill.). (1993). *Too many tamales*. New York: Putnam. ISBN 0399221468.
English. Cultural focus: Latin American, setting northern U.S.

A little girl tries on her mother's ring while making tamales, then discovers after the tamales have been prepared that the ring is missing!

Stanek, Muriel, & Friedman, Judith (Ill.). (1989). *I speak English for my mom*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman. ISBN 0807536598.

English.

Daughter is proud to have the responsibility to translate for her Spanish-speaking mother, but when the mother's job is threatened she feels the need to go to night school and learn the language herself. The daughter supports her mother's studies and helps her learn English for herself. Good story for young girls AND mothers who are learning English. Maybe daughters can read it to their mothers!

(Picture Books, cont'd)

Vigil, Angel. (1998). *Una linda raza: Cultural and artistic traditions of the American Southwest*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum. ISBN: 1555919588.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Collection of cultural traditions and the history behind them, with step-by-step instructions for crafts, games and songs, as well as stories and art. A fascinating glimpse of Mexican-American tradition, great for both Mexican-American children and anyone else who wants to learn about their extraordinary, rich cultural heritage. Very hands-on.

Books for Young Readers (ages 8-13)

Ada, Alma Flor, Thompson, Kathryn Dyble (Ill.), & Cerro, Ana M. (Trans.). (1995). *My name is María Isabel*. New York: Aladdin. ISBN 068980217X.

Short chapter book in English. Cultural focus: Puerto Rican.

María Isabel Salazar López moves to a new town, but since there are already two Marías in her new class at school, her teacher decides to call her “Mary.” But María is proud of her name and her culture. A story about learning when to fit in and when to make a stand.

Allende, Isabel. (2002). *La ciudad de las bestias*. Barcelona: Editorial Montena. ISBN 0060510315.

Spanish. Cultural focus: South American, Latin American Indian, or United States general; it's a great cultural comparison book.

Alexander Cold's mother is very ill, so his father sends him to stay with his grandmother for the summer. The grandmother is an adventurous reporter for International Geographic magazine, and as part of her job she takes Alexander with her to explore the Amazon jungle in search of a legendary beast. A conspiracy threatens to destroy the expedition, and it is up to Alexander and his new friend Nadia, a girl with many extraordinary talents, to save the expedition—and Alexander's mother. It's hard to put this book down, and it provides a fascinating look into the myths and legends of indigenous people of the Amazon.

(Books for Young Readers, cont'd)

Allende, Isabel. (2003). *El reino del dragón de oro*. Barcelona: Editorial Montena. ISBN 0060591706.

Spanish. Cultural focus: South American, Latin American Indian, or United States general. (Sequel to *Ciudad de las bestias*.)

Kate Cold, Alexander Cold, and Nadia Santos find themselves again on an expedition courtesy of International Geographic magazine, this time to the Himalayas. They are in a tiny country hoping to find information about the legendary Golden Dragon, said to advise the ruler of the kingdom in times of great need, but which no one but the ruler has ever seen. But when the Golden Dragon is stolen, and several young girls from the city have been kidnapped (including Nadia), Nadia and Alexander will have to solve the mystery and use their combined strength to save the artifact, and the country.

Allende, Isabel. (2004). *El bosque de los pigmeos*. Barcelona: Editorial Montena. ISBN 0060762195.

Spanish. Cultural focus: South American, Latin American Indian, or United States general. (Final book in the trilogy started by *La Ciudad de las Bestias* and *El Reino del Dragón de Oro*.)

Alexander and Kate Cold and Nadia Santos are in Equatorial Africa on a vacation to take their first elephant safari. Little do they know that they will soon be asked to assist in the rescue of missionaries possibly being held captive deep in the jungle by a tight-fisted dictator who has enslaved a tribe of pygmies and terrorized the local population!

Alvarez, Julia. (2004). *Before we were free*. New York: Knopf. ISBN 044023784X.

English. Cultural focus: Dominican.

Anita is a little girl who slowly realizes that her parents are involved in the resistance against the dictator Trujillo. But when the resistance is discovered, she and her mother have to go into hiding, and her father and uncle are taken into custody by the secret police. This fictional account is based on the experiences of the author and her family, and is reminiscent of Anne Frank's moving testimonial and the power of words to set even the most downtrodden people free.

(Books for Young Readers, cont'd)

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales (1996). *Alicia's treasure*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN 1558850856.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican-American.

Alicia is on her very first trip to the beach and she is very excited—in spite of her bossy brother Sergio! She finds many unexpected treasures on her visit. Great story about family values, discovering new things, and discovering oneself.

Buss, Fran Leeper (with Cubias, Daisy). (1993). *The journey of the sparrows*. New York: Dell. ISBN 0440407850.

English. Cultural focus: El Salvadoran, also recent and/or illegal immigrants.

A young girl and her siblings, escaping political persecution and starvation, are smuggled into the U.S. inside crates on the back of a truck. They try to find work in Chicago to make a living without being caught by immigration, and make enough money to send for their mother, who is sick in Mexico.

Cisneros, Sandra. (1994). *The house on Mango Street*. New York: Knopf. ISBN 067943335X.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican-American.

Esperanza Cordero is not content to settle for a life of poverty in Chicago's Latino district. She describes her life and dreams to become something more, in very episodic and conversational language.

Fernández, MaríaElena, Williams Unified School District, Padilla, Stan (Ill.), & Honigsberg, Sandra. (1993). *Mariposa: A workbook for discovery and exploration*. Williams, CA: Connections Leadership Project—Williams Unified School District.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican-American, tends toward northern and central Mexico.

Mariposa (which means “butterfly”) is a workbook of self-discovery and empowerment for Mexican-American girls. It contains reading selections and activities for girls to fill in as they go through this journey of finding their unique Latina identity. Topics include career exploration, making personal decisions, setting goals, and maintaining healthy relationships. Although the author's preface acknowledges the varied national backgrounds of Latinas in the U.S., the book's historical section focuses specifically on the Aztecs (central Mexico) and the book consistently refers to Mexican cultural role models. But overall it is an excellent resource for Mexican-American girls and would be a good model for adaptation for other cultural groups.

(Books for Young Readers, cont'd)

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Children's picture book depicting vignettes from childhood memories of artist Carmen Lomas Garza, who does the illustrations herself. Lovely illustrations reminiscent of Mexican artists such as Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Simple language.

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Lachtman, Ofelia Dumas. (1997). *Call me Consuelo*. Houston, TX: Arte Público Press. ISBN 1558851879.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Consuelo finds herself uprooted when a custody battle sends her to Los Angeles to live with her grand mother. But when she gets there, she discovers a mystery that leaves her little time for moping! This neat tale intertwines Consuelo's budding relationship with her grandmother, confusion about moving to a new place, and a fascinating mystery.

(Books for Young Readers, cont'd)

Martin, Patricia Preciado. (1996). *El milagro and other stories*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. ISBN 0816515484.

English, peppered with Spanish words. Cultural focus: Mexican-American.

Collection of the memories of the author, including anecdotes about her family, activities and way of life as a young Mexican-American girl growing up in Arizona. It also shows the conflict of a young girl juggling two cultures. The English is simple and would be great for mothers and daughters to read together.

Mora, Pat, & Lechon, Daniel (Ill.). (1994). *The desert is my mother / El desierto es mi madre*. Houston, TX: Piñata Books. ISBN 1558851216.

Bilingual illustrated poem. Cultural focus: Mexico/Southwest.

Poem about the richness of the desert; a metaphor of the strength of a mother and her ability to be every thing to a daughter. Beautiful poetry, visually stunning.

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Bilingual. Cultural focus: Mexican-American/Southwest country.

A little girl asks her grandfather how he became old, and he invents tall tales to explain his white hair, big belly, wrinkles and curved back. Good traditional family focus, emphasizing positive relationships with father figures. Funny!

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. (2000). *Esperanza rising*. New York: Scholastic. ISBN 043912042X.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican, recent immigrants.

Esperanza is from a wealthy family in Mexico. One night, bandits come and kill her father and brothers. She flees with her mother and a few servants to California, where for the first time in her life she must engage in manual labor in the agricultural industry. A great story about perseverance and learning to do things you never thought you could.

(Books for Young Readers, cont'd)

Soto, Gary, & Velasquez, Eric (Ill.). (1994). *The skirt*. New York: Dell. ISBN 0440409241.

Short chapter book in English. Cultural focus: Mexican, set in suburb of L.A.

A girl leaves her skirt for folkloric dancing on the school bus on a Friday, but she has a dance recital after church on Sunday! Desperate, she and her friends concoct a crazy scheme to rescue the skirt.

Stanek, Muriel, & Friedman, Judith (Ill.). (1989). *I speak English for my mom*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman. ISBN 0807536598.

English.

A daughter is proud to have the responsibility to translate for her Spanish-speaking mother, but when the mother's job is threatened she feels the need to go to night school and learn the language herself. The daughter supports her mother's studies and helps her learn English for herself. Good story for young girls AND mothers who are learning English. Maybe daughters can read it to their mothers!

Suárez-Rivas, Maite (Ed.). (2000). *Latino read-aloud stories*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal. ISBN: 1579120911.

Bilingual. Wide range of countries represented.

Selection of traditional tales of various genres. Includes pre-Columbian myths, fables and riddles, fairy tales, and history from the major different cultures of Latin America, plus a few selections from more modern Latin American authors.

Vigil, Angel. (1998). *Una linda raza: Cultural and artistic traditions of the Hispanic Southwest*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum. ISBN 1555919588.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

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Books for Teens

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(Books for Teens, cont'd)

Alvarez, Julia. (1992). *How the García girls lost their accents*. New York: Penguin. ISBN 0452268060.

English. Cultural focus: Dominican, set in New York City.

Details the struggle of four sisters to learn to balance their old culture with the new culture surrounding them after their family is forced to flee the Trujillo dictatorship—and they find that they need to embrace their heritage, rather than deny it, to find fulfillment in their new lives. Told in several interconnected stories in reverse chronological order.

Alvarez, Julia. (1997). *Yo!* New York: Penguin. ISBN 0452279186.

English. Cultural focus: Dominican.

Yolanda García's family and friends are irate—Yo has become a famous author by telling unflattering anecdotes about her family, barely disguised beneath a thin veil of fiction. So they decide to get back at her by setting the record straight in their own words—they tell stories about Yolanda, painting a much different picture of her from the one that appears in her stories. The only one who doesn't get a say is Yo herself! A metaphysical novel about identity formation and the relativity of memory and experience, written in a unique and highly amusing way.

Alvarez, Julia. (2004). *Before we were free*. New York: Knopf. ISBN 044023784X.

English. Cultural focus: Dominican.

Anita is a little girl who slowly realizes that her parents are revolved in the resistance against the dictator Trujillo. But when the resistance is discovered, she and her mother have to go into hiding, and her father and uncle are taken into custody by the secret police. This fictional account is based on the experiences of the author and her family, and is reminiscent of Anne Frank's moving testimonial and the power of words to set even the most downtrodden people free.

Barrientos, Tanya María. (2002). *Frontera Street*. New York: Penguin. ISBN 0451206355.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican.

Dee Paxton is white, pregnant and widowed at 28. Lost and confused, she never realizes when she randomly walks into a fabric store looking for a job that she will meet a woman who will change her life. That woman is Alma, a Mexican single mother, and in a town where their two worlds absolutely don't mix, their unlikely friendship blossoms like a thirsty desert flower. An inspiring story about women from very different backgrounds who learn the same lesson—the power of the truth.

(Books for Teens, cont'd)

Brashares, Ann. (2001). *The sisterhood of the traveling pants*. New York: Delacorte Press. ISBN 0385729332.

English. Cultural focus: Puerto Rican, also universal for all American girls.

Four best friends face their first summer apart. They find unity and comfort in a pair of magical jeans that somehow fit all of them, despite their completely different builds, and the jeans bring them together even when they are apart. Latina focus: a girl named Carmen, whose father is white and mother is Puerto Rican, who questions herself and her cultural identity when her father remarries a white woman who doesn't seem to understand Carmen's cultural heritage.

Cisneros, Sandra. (1994). *The house on Mango Street*. New York: Knopf. ISBN 067943335X.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican-American.

Esperanza Cordero is not content to settle for a life of poverty in Chicago's Latino district. She describes her life and dreams to become something more, in very episodic and conversational language.

Fernández, Alfredo Antonio, & Rascón, Susan Giersbach (Trans.). (2000). *Adrift: The Cuban raft people*. Houston, TX: Arte Público Press. ISBN 1558853006.

English. Cultural focus: Cuban.

A frank documentary about illegal immigration to the U.S. (and other countries) from Cuba, including dramatic personal stories and historical information, culminating in the Elián González story. Explores the hows and whys of this phenomenon.

Fernández, Roberta (1994). *In other words: Literature by Latinas of the United States*. Houston, TX: Arte Público Press. ISBN 1558851100.

Primarily English (Spanish selections provide English translation but not vice versa).

A collection of fiction, drama, poetry, and essays written by Latinas from all kinds of backgrounds who live in the United States. Includes many of the most celebrated contemporary Latina authors and poets. Covers a variety of topics, including cultural conflict, bilingualism, gender/racial inequality, being a Latina feminist, class difficulties, and celebrating a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

A rich tapestry of culture.

(Books for Teens, cont'd)

Menard, Valerie. (2003). *Latinas in love: A modern guide to love and relationships*. New York: Marlowe. ISBN 1569245126.

English.

This book helps Latina teenagers cope with conflicting values in love relationships. Topics include defining the “new Latina”, finding the positive messages in traditional values, generational conflicts in dating values, the effect of the “luscious Latina” stereotype on society and girls’ self-esteem, technology and relationships, dating outside “La Raza”, etc. Very conversational in tone.

Osa, Nancy. (2003). *Cuba 15*. New York: Delacorte Press. ISBN 0385730217.

English. Cultural focus: Cuban.

Violet is less than enthusiastic when her grandmother proposes a quinceañero party for her fifteenth birthday. After all, Violet is half Polish, all American, and her father won’t even speak to her about Cuba—how can she get in touch with her Cuban roots? In the planning process, however, Violet discovers a lot more than she thought—about who she is, how to embrace her complete heritage, and a budding talent that surprises even her. This story is well-told and provides an excellent perspective on the conflicts of second-generation Cuban-Americans, from the point of view of a spunky, likeable teenager.

Valverde, Leonard A. (Ed.). (2001). *The Latino student’s guide to college success*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. ISBN 031331960X.

English.

This book provides the eight steps to a Latino’s success in college: from getting ready and applying to going after scholarships to how to balance a college study schedule. The book provides very practical advice and vignettes from prominent Latinos in the community, including legislators, heads of universities, and corporate vice presidents. A must-have for every Latino teen, and the advice is good for college students of any ethnic background.

Biographies

Allende, Isabel. (2003). *Mi país inventado: Un paseo nostálgico por Chile*. New York: Rayo. ISBN 0060545658.

Spanish. Cultural focus: Chilean.

Renowned author Isabel Allende takes us back to her roots in this poetic autobiography. She describes how a person's motherland can have a profound impact on how she or he sees the world and how a writer describes it. As she winds her way down memory lane, readers of her other books will recognize characters from her novels appearing throughout her real life.

Bernstein, Leonard, Winkler, Alan, & Zierdt-Warshaw, Linda. (1998). *Latino women of science: Biographies, experiments, and hands-on activities*. Maywood, NJ: Peoples Publishing Group. ISBN 1562567055.

English.

Overview of women from very diverse backgrounds who became different types of scientists. This is a workbook with activities to accompany each reading, and critical-thinking questions. Each biography includes an experiment relating to that woman's field; the fields represented range from clinical psychology to immunization research to planetary geology. This is a great way for girls to explore different types of careers in the sciences because of the high-interest activities, and also provides excellent Latina role models. (Teacher's guide available.)

Chavez, Linda. (2002). *An unlikely conservative: The transformation of an ex-liberal (or how I became the most hated Hispanic in America)*. New York: Basic Books. ISBN 0465089038.

English. Cultural focus: Mexican-American.

Linda Chavez writes a compelling autobiography about her experiences growing up in New Mexico and Colorado, teaching in affirmative action programs in colleges around the country, her research into issues affecting the Latino population, and her eventual career change into politics. Her story shows determination, strength and an astounding ability to stand up for what she believes in, even when it isn't popular.

(Biographies, cont'd)

Collins, María Antonieta. (2003). *Cuando el monstruo despierta*. Mexico City: Grijalbo. ISBN 140008461X.

Spanish.

This is a mother's story about her daughter's struggle in an abusive relationship. It details her difficulties as a mother recognizing and dealing with the problem, as well as her daughter's lack of recognition of the abuse in her own life. Also includes recommendations to mothers at various steps in her own journey. Concludes with a poignant narrative of the situation by the girl herself.

Doran, Terry (Ed.). Satterfield, Janet, & Stade, Chris. (1988). *A road well traveled: Three generations of Cuban American women*. Fort Wayne, IN: Latin American Educational Center.

English. Cultural focus: Cuban.

Biographies of various Cuban and Cuban-American women from three generations: pre-1959, post revolutionary, and first-generation Cuban-Americans. These first-person testimonials give voice to a national group that doesn't normally have one, and also to women in that group, who have been traditionally silent. Very powerful book.

Elsasser, Nan, MacKenzie, Kyle, & Tixier y Vigil, Yvonne. (1980). *Las mujeres: Conversations from a Hispanic community*. Old Westbury, NY: Feminist Press. ISBN 0912670843.

English (some Spanish with translation).

Transcriptions of interviews with Hispanic women of New Mexico from various generations. While the book is old, the messages and the voices of these women easily transcend the time barrier and come through clearly in these wonderfully-written first-person accounts. The diversity of viewpoints represented in the book works to break down stereotypes of Hispanic women.

(Biographies, cont'd)

Kamp, Jim, & Telgen, Diane (Eds.). (1996). *Latinas! Women of achievement*. Detroit, MI: Visible Ink. ISBN 0787608831.

English. Cultural focus: Latina general.

Profiles of 69 prominent Latinas in professions ranging from writers and poets to astronauts. Short, easy-to-read clips give background about Latinas and give girls strong, positive role models in many careers. Table of contents lists names in alphabetical order and also lists the career of the woman, so it is easy to find topics of interest.

Ortiz, Sister Dianna. (2002). *The blindfold's eyes: My journey from torture to truth*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. ISBN 1570755639.

English. For mature readers.

Sister Dianna Ortiz was kidnapped and tortured in Guatemala while doing missionary work there. But when she finally escaped and returned to the U.S., she found that her ordeal was far from over—she had to face skepticism from the Guatemalan government, animosity from the U.S. embassy in Guatemala, and foot-dragging by the commissions in charge of investigating her case. She also had to rebuild her own life and her self in the wake of the horrible trauma she had experienced.

This riveting, poetic first-person account shows Dianna's amazing strength through her ordeal and its aftermath as she continues to fight for the people of Guatemala and for her own healing.

Pérez-Brown, María. (2003). *Mamá: Latina daughters celebrate their mothers*. New York: HarperCollins. ISBN 0060083867.

English.

María Pérez-Brown interviewed many prominent Latinas for this text, and they tell their stories of growing up, focusing on the strength of their mothers. These uplifting, powerful accounts put moms in a new light, as these women detail the sacrifices, the words and the hugs their mothers gave them that helped them rise to success. The women interviewed include Celia Cruz, Cristina Saralegui, Jaci Velázquez, and Rosario Martín. A delightful book that will make you want to hug your mom.

Internet Resources

<http://www.hablemos.samhsa.gov/default.aspx>

Hablemos en confianza

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Hispanic / Latino Initiative

This bilingual site is designed for parents and children and contains much information about issues of health, self-esteem, substance abuse, family relationships and biculturalism, among many other topics. Related to “Soy unica, soy latina”, but designed with the whole family in mind.

<http://www.hispaniconline.com/hh>

Hispanic Heritage Plaza

This site is a celebration of all things Hispanic—literature, art, cuisine, music, travel, family, and much more! A rich interactive tour of the Latino culture all around us—great for Latinos who want to explore their cultural heritage and history and for others who want to immerse themselves in it.

<http://www.latinitasmagazine.org>

Latinitas Magazine

This excellent site is a webzine designed by Latina girls and teens to inspire Latina girls to be “strong, smart, successful and most importantly themselves.” There is a webzine for teens and one for girls. It is released monthly and includes all kinds of topics ranging from eating disorders to music reviews. It is available in English and Spanish.

<http://www.soyunica.gov/default.aspx>

Soy única, soy latina

This bilingual website was designed for 9- to 14-year-old Latinas by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services. It has great sections on body image, eating right and exercising, seasonal fun, dating, being bicultural and much more. It also has quizzes and an opportunity for 15- to 23-year-old aspiring writers to contribute to the website as a volunteer opportunity. Great messages and very neat site.

For more information on Latinas, see these Girls Incorporated® Resource Lists:

- ◆ **Latina Resources for Parents and Families**
- ◆ **Latina Resources for Youth Workers**

In response to requests from affiliates and as a result of monitoring service trends, Girls Inc. is implementing an initiative to address the strengths and needs of Latinas ages 6 to 18, with the goals of increasing the number of Latina girls served by Girls Incorporated affiliates and increasing the sensitivity to Latinas in all Girls Inc. efforts.

Girls Incorporated® is a nonprofit organization in the United States and Canada that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and boldSM. With local roots dating to 1864 and national status in the US since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls and their communities through research-based programs and advocacy that empower girls to reach their full potential and to understand, value, and assert their rights.

Girls Inc. programs focus on science, math, and technology, health and sexuality, economic and financial literacy, sports skills, leadership and advocacy, and media literacy for girls ages 6 to 18 throughout the United States and in Canada. While our goal is to reach all girls, we recognize that girls in at-risk communities have an even greater need for our programs. Of those we serve, 76 percent are girls of color and 70 percent come from families earning \$25,000 or less. More than half are from single-parent households, most of which are headed by women.

Girls Inc. in 2004 reached nearly 800,000 girls through Girls Inc. affiliates, our website, and educational products. Guided by our vision of empowered girls and an equitable society, Girls Inc. is committed to reaching millions more girls through its programs and public education efforts.

The National Resource Center (NRC) is the organization's research, program development, national services, and training site. Research and evaluation conducted by the NRC provide the foundation for Girls Inc. programs. The NRC also responds to requests for information on girls' issues and distributes Girls Inc. publications.

Girls Inc. informs policy makers about girls' needs locally and nationally. The organization educates the media about critical issues facing girls. In addition, the organization teaches girls how to advocate for themselves and their communities, using their voices to promote positive change.

Girls Inc. leadership focuses on developing innovative ways to leverage our most valuable asset acknowledged expertise as the nation's premiere program provider and advocate for girls. Our leaders include Janice L. Warne, Chair of the National Board; Joyce M. Roché, President and CEO; and Donna Brace Ogilvie, Distinguished Chair.

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