

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is here (**September 15 to October 15**)! As we have done in the past with other heritage months, CLI is excited to share our thoughts on how to honor and acknowledge this special occasion, along with book recommendations and resources for the classroom.

Hispanic Heritage Month began as a **commemorative week in 1968**. Momentum from the 1960s Civil Rights Movement spurred a growing awareness of the United States' various multicultural identities. As part of that momentum, Congressman George E. Brown, who represented an area of California with a large Latinx population, wanted to recognize their contributions throughout American history. In 1988, this week was turned into a month.



© Mission Mural - Political Art. Photograph by Fabrice Florin. February 2, 2018

The Use of Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, and Chicano...

The terms **Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, and Chicano** refer to a person's culture or origin—regardless of race. These terms and others have been used interchangeably for a number of reasons, such as one's preference, socialization, region, identity, etc. The addition of one's intersectionality can also influence how people choose to identify themselves. *While these terms have been used interchangeably for different purposes, we will be using Latinx throughout this message.*

Not a Monolith

It's also important to point out that Latinx people are not a monolith by any stretch of the imagination. The Latinx community encompasses a wide range of ethnicities, generations, cultures, dialects and racial identities from multiple countries and regions within Latin America. See below in **Lessons, Resources, and Ways to Approach Hispanic Heritage Month** for a lesson on this topic entitled, Don't Call Me Puerto Rican.

Our Approach to Hispanic Heritage Month

CLI's approach to this month aligns with its views on all of the Heritage Months we acknowledge – we believe to authentically tell our nation's history, we must create a story that's inclusive and goes beyond the accomplishments, ideas, and creations of a few. Schools need to integrate these stories along with the narratives that have been ignored and/or overlooked into their current curriculum throughout the entire school year. If your experience has been like many others, you may not remember learning about topics related to Latinx people until college. This is not where we need to be. As our country becomes more diverse, we have got to do a better job of sharing a more inclusive story about who we are, where we are from, why we came here, how we came here, what we have experienced, and what we have done. More specifically, educators may want to ask themselves the following **Guiding Questions** when planning for this month:

- What are the lasting contributions of Latinx people and groups to the culture and history of the United States?
- Who is included in your curriculum and who can be added when teaching Latinx history?
- How is Latinx history woven into the fabric of U.S. history?
- What are some historical and cultural connections between Latin America and the United States?

We also want to “encourage educators to remember that racial justice and anti-bias work exist beyond a Black and White binary. The Asian, Indigenous and Latinx communities must be a part of any work labeled *diverse, culturally responsive and anti-racist*.” (Elizabeth Kleinrock, Learning for Justice; formerly Teaching Tolerance)

Here are some ways you can use children's literature to dig deeper into the Latinx experience. These umbrella concepts and questions can be used to build positive identities, celebrate the joy of other cultures, spark conversation, and inspire children to stand up for change.

Connect Children to Their History

Connect the events of history to the lives of the children in your classrooms. Explore how the actions of the past shaped and continue to shape the lives of people now. Help children to see how historical events connect to current events.

- How does your family talk about things that are not fair?
- How does your family talk about the issues that are affecting life in the United States and the world?
- What can we learn from the past that we can apply to today?

Develop Criticality

Criticality means reading, writing, and thinking in active ways to understand and question how power, privilege, and oppression play out in texts and in the real world and work towards change.

- How do you know when something is unfair?
- Make a list of things that you think are unfair. For example, you may want to focus on classroom and/or school policies and/or rules.
- Why do you think these things are unfair?
- How would you change these things to make them more fair?
- How did the changes you made to make things more fair affect people's lives?

Understand and Dismantle Racism

Help children recognize and understand privilege and bias in the world. Explore what is needed to combat racism and make America a better place for all Americans.

- How does hate show up in our lives today?

Understand Intersectionality and its Effects on People

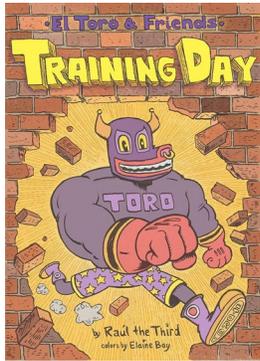
Intersectionality refers to the social, economic, and political ways in which identity-based systems of oppression and privilege connect, overlap, and influence one another. Help children understand what intersectionality is as a concept and how it makes for different life experiences for Latinx people.

- How does race impact the life experiences of Latinx people?

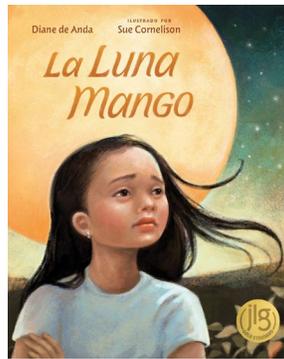
Have Children Explore Their Own Identities

Gaining an understanding of who you are in this world is incredibly important, and providing children an opportunity at a young age to explore this journey is an essential part of a child's development. Literature is a bridge to a large variety of discussions around identity. This is also an excellent way to introduce the concept of intersectionality.

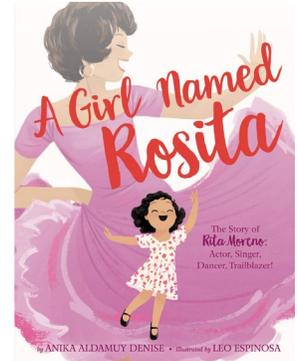
- How did the identities of the main character affect the story?
- If the gender of the main character was changed, how do you think the story may have been told differently?
- To introduce intersectionality:
 - ▶ When you think of yourself, what are the major identities that come to mind first – e.g., gender, race, neighborhood, athlete, musician, etc.? Discuss if you feel that some of your identities result in you being treated more fairly than others that you hold.
 - ▶ Facilitate a conversation around a character that has lots of interesting identities that intersect, e.g.: a very athletic, Latinx girl who loves to play football with the boys at recess, and is an amazing drummer with her local drill team. Discuss how her intersecting identities impact how she is viewed and treated in the story.



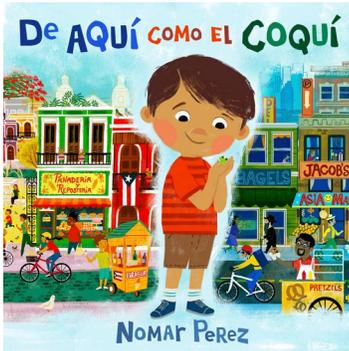
El Toro and Friends: Training Day
Raúl the Third III



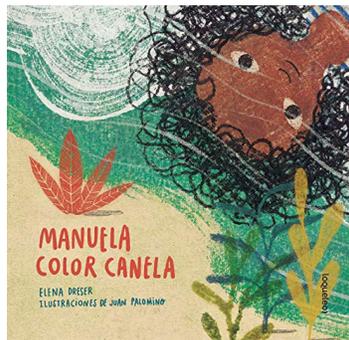
La luna mango
Diane de Anda and Sue Cornelison



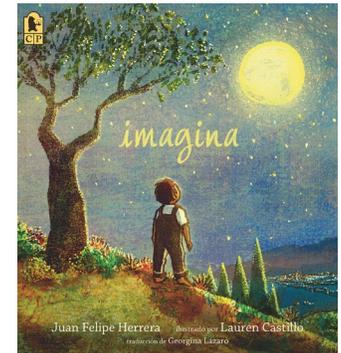
A Girl Named Rosita
Anika Aldamuy Denise
and Leo Espinosa



De aquí como el coquí
Tina Cho and Jess X. Snow



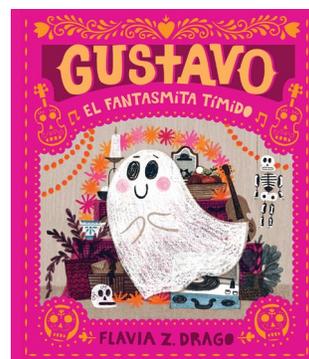
Manuela color canela
Elena Dreser and Juan Palomino



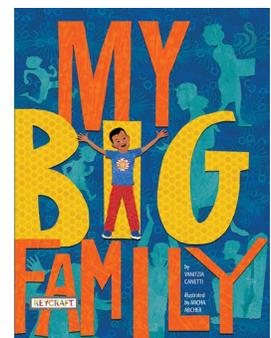
Imagina
Juan Felipe Herrera
and Lauren Castillo



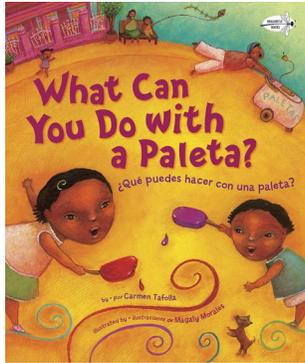
Ventanas
Julia Denos and E. B. Goodale



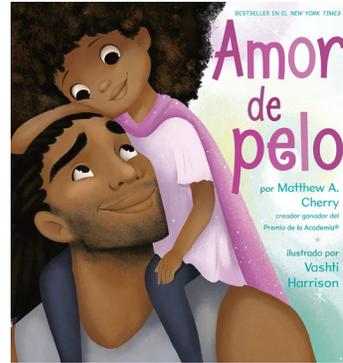
Gustavo el fantasmita tímido
Flavia Z. Drago



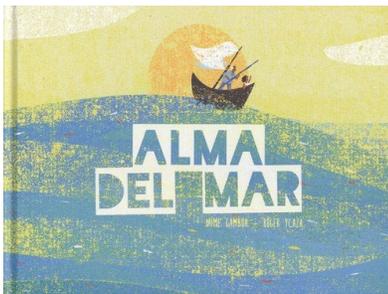
My Big Family
Yanitzia Canetti and Micha Archer



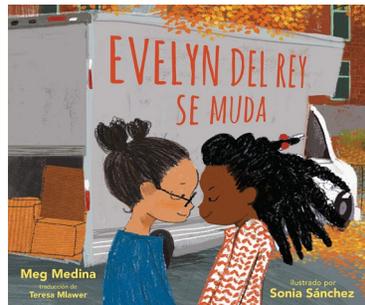
What Can You Do with a Paleta?
¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?
Carmen Tafolla and Magaly Morales



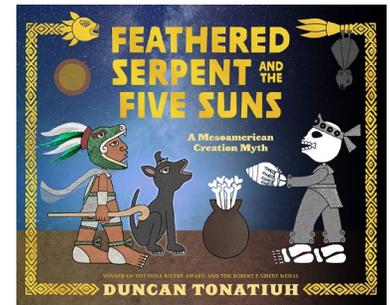
Amor de pelo
Matthew A. Cherry
and Vashti Harrison



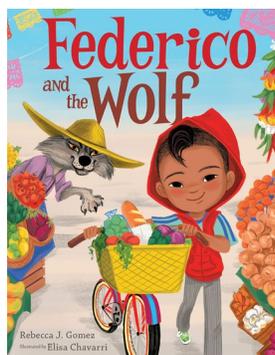
Alma del mar
Jaime Gamboa and Roger Ycaza



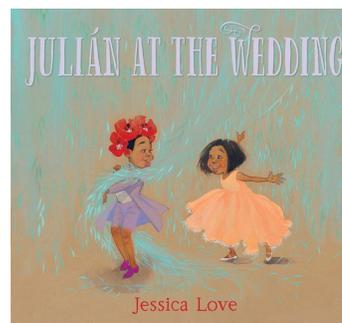
Evelyn Del Rey se muda
Meg Medina and Sonia Sanchez



**Feathered Serpent and
the Five Suns**
Duncan Tonatiuh



Federico and the Wolf
Rebecca J. Gomez
and Elisa Chavarri



Julian at the Wedding
Jessica Love

Lessons, Resources, and Ways to Approach Hispanic Heritage Month

- **Learning For Justice** | This is an excellent resource for educators. Create your own free account to access resources, lesson plans, professional development, podcasts, etc. on a vast variety of social justice and diversity topics – including Hispanic Heritage Month (Learning For Justice; formerly Teaching Tolerance)
- **Key Facts About US Latinos for National Hispanic Heritage Month** | Key facts and information (demographics, identity, language, education) for teachers to build their personal knowledge and understanding, and to possibly adapt classroom activities and discussions (Pew Research Center)
- **5 Teacher Resources for Hispanic American Heritage Month** Although the lessons and resources listed here are not necessarily written for K-5, there's an abundance of information here for teachers to build their personal knowledge and understanding and perhaps adapt for their own students (Facing History)
- **U.S. Census Bureau** provides a wide range of statistics and facts about Latinx people (US Census Bureau)
- **Online Database of Information and Resources** Various resources for primary and secondary school teachers about Latin America's economy, recreation, science, society, culture, and more (Latin American Network Information Center – Univ. of Texas)
- **National Hispanic Heritage Month** offers online exhibits, collections, lessons, and links to selected resources for teachers (Collaborative project of the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration)
- **Hispanic Heritage Month Activities | Share My Lesson** Pre-K and elementary lesson plans, resources, and activities (Share My Lesson)
- **Hispanic Heritage Month NEA** | Pre-K and elementary lesson plans, resources, and activities (National Education Association)
- **Hispanic Heritage Month PBS LearningMedia** Resources For teachers, parents, and children to explore the experiences, culture, and contributions of Latinx people who have shaped American History (PBS)
- **National Hispanic Heritage Month: Ideas for Teachers** Lessons and resources on various topics within the Latinx community (Anti-Defamation League)
- **Extensive list of ideas, resources and lesson plans** Pre-K and elementary lesson plans, resources, activities and much more to explore (Spanish Mama)
- **A Month of Ideas for Celebrating Hispanic Heritage** 30 activities for celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month for grades 3rd-8th (Scholastic)
- **Don't Call Me Puerto Rican** All Latinx people are not the same. This teen writer from New York discusses the power of identity, and how it feels when adults think that Latinx cultures are interchangeable. Although the article is not necessarily written for K-5, the ideas and themes expressed in the article are relevant and can be adapted to younger audiences (Learning For Justice & Youth Communication)