



Inclusive Literature Lists

The Billings Public Library supports and values and celebrates diversity and inclusion. We strive to curate a collection of resources that represents all demographics in our community's tapestry. We believe an inclusive and welcoming community is a stronger community.

This list of inclusive and diverse literature that the youth of our community can see themselves in as well as use as a conduit to build compassion for others is brought to you on behalf of collaboration between the Human Relations Commission of the City of Billings, the Billings Public Library, and a children's literature assistant professor from Montana State University Billings.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and any recommendations for this list. We will take these into consideration as we continue to develop these lists.

October 2020: National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct.15)



Besos for Baby: A Little Book of Kisses

By [Arena, Jen](#)

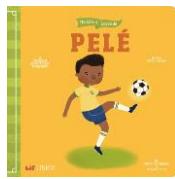
2014-09 - LB Kids

9780316230377 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Texas 2x2 Reading List (2015)

Using simple Spanish words, this adorable bilingual read-aloud proves that love is the same in every language! Parents won't be able to resist giving baby "muchos besos" as they share this book, filled with bold, graphic illustrations, with their little "bebé. O Full color. [...More](#)



Life of - La Vida de Pelé, the

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

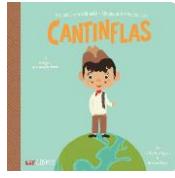
2020-09 - Lil' Libros

9781947971530 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

Introduce little ones to the life of legendary soccer player, Pelé, in both English and Spanish

Born October 23, 1940 in Brazil, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, is widely regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time.

Patty Rodriguez is the co-founder of Lil' Libros, a publisher of bilingual children's books and co-author of more than [...More](#)



Around the World With/Alrededor del Mundo Con

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

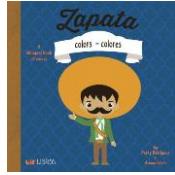
Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

2018-03 - Lil' Libros

9780986109980 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

A Lil' Libros Bilingual Geography Book

Inspired by one of the world's most iconic comedians, Mario Moreno (better known as the inquisitive Cantinflas), this book will take little ones around the world while introducing them to their first English and Spanish words. Travel with the curious Cantinflas through Los Estados Unidos by train, through France on a hot air balloon, and [...More](#)



Zapata: Colors/Colores: A Bilingual Book of Colors

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

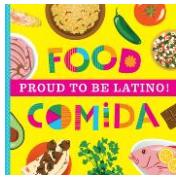
Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

2015-03 - Lil' Libros

9781495126574 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

A Lil' Libros Bilingual Book of Colors

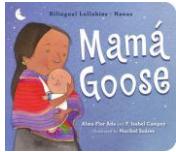
As a leading figure during the Mexican revolution, Emiliano Zapata was an extraordinary man who fought for the less fortunate. This book introduces little ones to colors and their first English and Spanish words. Ride a *caballo blanco* (white horse), wear a brown *sombrero* (hat), and walk the green pastures where Zapata once [...More](#)



Proud to Be Latino: Food/Comida
By [Mireles, Ashley Marie](#)
Illustrator [Valle, Edith](#)
2019-09 - Familius
9781641701549 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Did you know that there are over 5000 types of potatoes sold in South America? Or that in Honduras, a song about conch soup reached the Billboard Top 100 Charts?

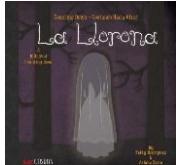
Latino culture spans Southern and Central America as well as the Caribbean, but often when we think of Latino foods, we think tacos, burritos, and other common Mexican dishes. *Proud to Be Latino: Food/Comida* [...More](#)



Mamá Goose: Bilingual Lullabies-Nanas

By [Ada, Alma Flor](#)
Author [Campoy, F. Isabel](#)
Illustrator [Suarez, Maribel](#)
2019-11 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
9781368045414 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This bilingual board book by acclaimed authors Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy presents popular and beloved lullabies from all over the Spanish-speaking world. Full of charm and humor, and rich with the diversity of Latinx cultures, *Mam Goose* is the perfect introduction to Latinx lullabies for English speakers, and a trove of familiar favorites for Spanish speakers. [...More](#)

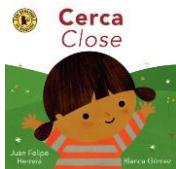


La Llorona: Counting Down / Contando Hacia Atras: A Bilingual Counting Book
By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)
Author [Stein, Ariana](#)
Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)
2015-09 - Lil' Libros
9780986109928 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

A Lil' Libros Bilingual Counting Book

La Llorona is a ghost, very prominent in the folklore of Latin America, who searches for her missing children, and brings misfortune to others. But this book is far from spooky. Count *piedras* in the river, eyes of owls, and red doors where La Llorona may be hiding.

Unable to find bilingual first concept books she could enjoy [...More](#)



Cerca / Close
By [Herrera, Juan Felipe](#)
Illustrator [Gómez, Blanca](#)
2019-09 - Candlewick Press (MA)
0763690627 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Some things are close -- cerca. Others are far -- lejos. With sweet simplicity, this charming dual-language board book and its companion volume, *Lejos/Far*, engage young children.

Mi cuarto est cerca de la cocina. *My bedroom is close to the kitchen.*

As she walks from her kitchen through a daisy-filled yard to the house next door, a little girl notices things [...More](#)



La Vida de/The Life of Selena

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

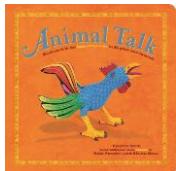
Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

2018-03 - Lil' Libros

9780986109997 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Lil' Libros Bilingual Biography

Selena's career started at a young age when she became lead singer in her family's band, Selena Y Los Dinos. She went on to become an award-winning artist with albums like Amor Prohibido and Selena Live, and earned the title Queen of Tejano Music." Your little one will learn that Selena's favorite food was pizza and that the most important people [...More](#)



Animal Talk: Mexican Folk Art Animal Sounds in English and Spanish

By [Weill, Cynthia](#)

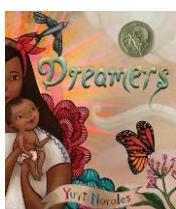
2017-04 - Cinco Puntos Press

9781941026694 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A beautiful, playful, child-centric approach to language learning--and if it spawns conversations about dialects, so much the better."--*Kirkus*

"This interactive picture book is sure to be a young crowd-pleaser and storytime favorite." --*School Library Journal*

Rub Fuentes is the daughter and apprentice of a famous Oaxacan woodcarver. Oddly, she met Efra n Broa [...More](#)



Dreamers

By [Morales, Yuyi](#)

2018-09 - Neal Porter Books

9780823440559 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Pura Belpre Award (2019)

We are resilience. We are hope. We are dreamers.

Yuyi Morales brought her hopes, her passion, her strength, and her stories with her, when she came to the United States in 1994 with her

infant son. She left behind nearly everything she owned, but she didn't come empty-handed.

Dreamers is a celebration of making your home with the things you [...More](#)



Lucia the Luchadora: And the Million Masks

By [Garza, Cynthia Leonor](#)

Illustrator [Bermudez, Alyssa](#)

2018-10 - Pow! Kids Books

9781576878941 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lucia's little sister Gemma wants to be a luchadora like her big sister, but she is more bumble and splat than pizzazz and seems to find trouble wherever she goes. When Gemma makes a ginormous hole in Lucia's special silver mask, Lucia is incredulous and exasperated at how her little sister seems to get away with everything. But Lucia's grandmother, Abu, has an idea: a trip to the mercado to get [...More](#)



The Heart of the World

By [Lujan, Jorge](#)

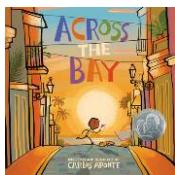
Illustrator [Carrer, Chiara](#)

Translator [Lethem, Mara](#)

2018-06 - Enchanted Lion Books

9781592702534 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Pablo lives in Chile with his hardworking father. But Pablo also lives in Ecuador, deep in the Amazon rainforest. There is another Pablo living with his family in Mexico, after fleeing the dictatorship in Argentina. And in New York, Pablo shares an overcrowded apartment in the Bronx, where he's only allowed home for twelve hours at a time. Pablo is the son of a rural schoolteacher in Peru, and [...More](#)



Across the Bay

By [Aponte, Carlos](#)

Illustrator [Aponte, Carlos](#)

2019-09 - Penguin Workshop

9781524786625 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Pura Belpre Award (2020)

RECIPIENT OF THE PURA BELPR Illustrator HONOR

Author-illustrator Carlos Aponte takes readers on a journey to the heart of Puerto Rico in this enchanting picture book set in Old San Juan.

"A lively and honest story about filling voids and exploring what defines a family--as well as a love letter to a childhood home."--*Horn Book*

Carlitos lives in a happy home with [...More](#)



Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpre

By [Denise, Anika Aldamuy](#)

Illustrator [Escobar, Paola](#)

2019-01 - HarperCollins

9780062748683 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

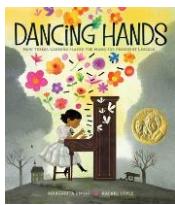
Pura Belpre Award (2020)

RECIPIENT OF THE PURA BELPR HONOR

* A Today Show's Best Kids' Books of 2019 * Indie Next List Pick

* Junior Library Guild Selection *

"An appealing tribute and successful remedy to the lack of titles about the groundbreaking librarian...a [...More](#)



Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln

By [Engle, Margarita](#)

Illustrator [López, Rafael](#)

2019-08 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781481487405 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

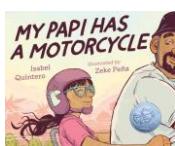
Pura Belpre Award (2020)

Winner of the Pura Belpre Illustrator Award

A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book

In soaring words and stunning illustrations, Margarita Engle and Rafael López tell the story of Teresa Carreño, a child prodigy who played piano for Abraham Lincoln.

As a little girl, Teresa Carreño loved to let her hands dance across the beautiful keys of the piano. If she [...More](#)



My Papi Has a Motorcycle

By [Quintero, Isabel](#)

Illustrator [Peña, Zeke](#)

2019-05 - Kokila

9780525553410 [Check Our Catalog](#)

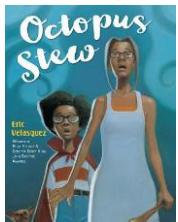
Awards:

Pura Belpre Award (2020)

A celebration of the love between a father and daughter, and of a vibrant immigrant neighborhood, by an award-winning author and illustrator duo.

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 [...More](#)



Octopus Stew

By [Velasquez, Eric](#)

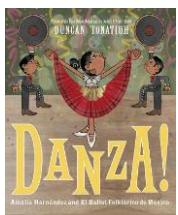
2019-09 - Holiday House

9780823437542 [Check Our Catalog](#)

What do you do when an octopus captures Grandma? Put on your superhero cape and rescue her This clever picture book tells two stories in one, from award-winning Afro-Latino artist Eric Velasquez.

The octopus Grandma is cooking has grown to titanic proportions. " Tenga cuidado " Ramsey shouts. "Be careful " But it's too late. The octopus traps Grandma

Ramsey uses both art [...More](#)



Danza! Amalia Hernandez and El Ballet Folklorico de Mexico

By [Tonatiuh, Duncan](#)

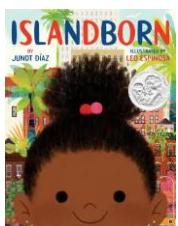
2017-08 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419725326 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Award-winning author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh tells the story of Amalia Hernández, dancer and founder of El Ballet Folklórico de México.

As a child, Amalia Hernández saw a pair of dancers in the town square. The way they stomped and swayed to the rhythm of the beat inspired her. She knew one day she would become a dancer.

Amalia studied ballet and modern dance under [...More](#)



Islandborn

By [Díaz, Junot](#)

Illustrator [Espinosa, Leo](#)

2018-03 - Dial Books

9780735229860 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Pura Belpre Award (2019)

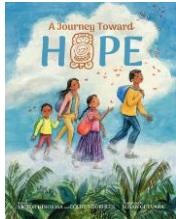
From *New York Times* bestseller and Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz comes a debut picture book about the magic of memory and the infinite power of the imagination.

A 2019 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Illustration

Every kid in Lola's school was from somewhere else.

Hers was a school of faraway places.

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A Journey Toward Hope

By [Hinojosa, Victor](#)

Author [Voorhees, Coert](#)

Illustrator [Guevara, Susan](#)

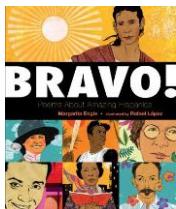
2020-08 - Six Foot Press

9781644420089 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"An emotional entry point to a larger, necessary discussion on this complex and difficult subject." -- Kirkus Reviews

Four unaccompanied migrant children come together along the arduous journey north through Mexico to the United States border in this ode to the power of hope and connection even in the face of uncertainty and fear.

Every year, roughly [...More](#)



Bravo!: Poems about Amazing Hispanics

By [Engle, Margarita](#)

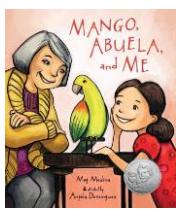
Illustrator [Lopez, Rafael](#)

2017-03 - Henry Holt & Company

9780805098761 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Musician, botanist, baseball player, pilot--the Latinos featured in this collection, *Bravo* , come from many different countries and from many different backgrounds. Celebrate their accomplishments and their contributions to a collective history and a community that continues to evolve and thrive today

Biographical poems include: Aida de Acosta, Arnold Rojas, Baruj Benacerraf, C [...More](#)



Mango, Abuela, and Me

By [Medina, Meg](#)

Illustrator [Dominguez, Angela](#)

2015-08 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763669003 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Cybils (2015), Pura Belpre Award (2016)

The acclaimed author of "Ta Isa Wants a Car" presents a tender story

about a little girl whose Spanish-speaking grandmother cannot read in English. A 2016 Pura Belpre Honor Book. Full color. [...More](#)



Turning Pages: My Life Story

By [Sotomayor, Sonia](#)

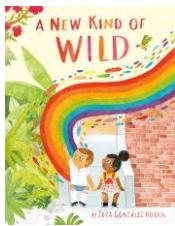
Illustrator [Delacre, Lulu](#)

2018-09 - Philomel Books

9780525514084 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor tells her own story for young readers for the very first time

As the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor has inspired young people around the world to reach for their dreams. But what inspired her? For young Sonia, the answer was books. They were her mirrors, her maps, her friends, and her teachers. They helped her to connect with [...More](#)



A New Kind of Wild

By [Hoang, Zara Gonzalez](#)

Illustrator [Hoang, Zara Gonzalez](#)

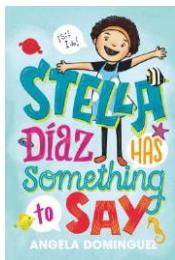
2020-04 - Dial Books

9780525553892 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This sweet author-illustrator debut celebrates imagination, the magic of friendship, and all the different ways we make a new place feel like home.

For Ren, home is his grandmother's little house, and the lush forest that surrounds it. Home is a place of magic and wonder, filled with all the fantastical friends that Ren dreams up. Home is where his imagination can run wild.

For Ava, [...More](#)



[View Series](#)

Stella Diaz Has Something to Say

By [Dominguez, Angela](#)

2018-01 - Roaring Brook Press

9781626728585 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Stella Diaz series

In her first middle-grade novel, award-winning picture book author and illustrator Angela Dominguez tells a heartwarming story based on her own experiences growing up Mexican-American.

Stella Diaz loves marine animals, especially her betta fish, Pancho. But Stella Diaz is not a betta fish. Betta fish like to be alone, while Stella loves spending time with her mom and brother and her best [...More](#)



Merci Suarez Changes Gears

By [Medina, Meg](#)

2018-09 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763690496 [Check Our Catalog](#)

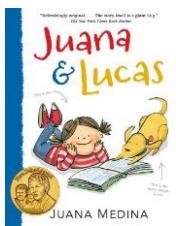
Awards:

Newbery Medal (2019)

Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal

Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between in a resonant new novel from Meg Medina.

Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other [...More](#)



Juana & Lucas

By [Medina, Juana](#)

Illustrator [Medina, Juana](#)

2019-03 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536206395 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Juana and Lucas series

"Refreshingly original. . . . Medina's beautiful, vivid prose conjures the Colombian setting with tactile language. . . . The story itself is a giant hug." -- *The New York Times Book Review*

Fans of Judy Moody and Clarice Bean will love Juana, the spunky young Colombian girl who stars in this playful, abundantly illustrated series. Juana loves many things: drawing, living in Bogot [...More](#)



Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble

By [Meriano, Anna](#)

Illustrator [Ortega, Mirelle](#)

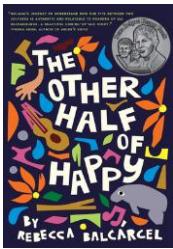
2019-01 - Walden Pond Press

9780062498472 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Love sugar magic series

A charming and delectably sweet debut. Mischief, friendship, and a whole lot of heart--*Love Sugar Magic* has it all. --Zoraida C rdova, award-winning author of the Brooklyn Brujas series. This middle grade novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 5 to 6, especially during homeschooling. It's a [...More](#)

[View Series](#)



The Other Half of Happy

By [Balcarcel, Rebecca](#)

2019-08 - Chronicle Books

9781452169989 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Pura Belpre Award (2020)

2020 Pura Belpre Honor Book

A Junior Library Guild Selection

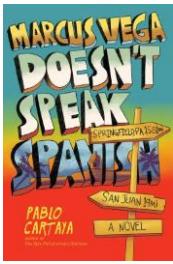
ALSC Notable Children's Book

2020 Jean Flynn Award for Best Middle Grade Book

2020 Spirit of Texas Reading Program Recommended Title

This immersive and beautifully written novel follows the story of Quijana, a girl in pieces.

Quijana must figure out which parts of [...More](#)



Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish

By [Cartaya, Pablo](#)

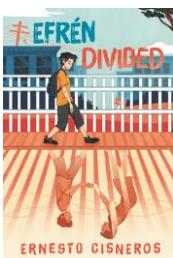
2018-08 - Viking Books for Young Readers

9781101997260 [Check Our Catalog](#)

One boy's search for his father leads him to Puerto Rico in this moving middle-grade novel, for fans of *Ghost* and *See You in the Cosmos*.

Marcus Vega is six feet tall, 180 pounds, and the owner of a premature mustache. When you look like this and you're only in the eighth grade, you're both a threat and a target.

After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, [...More](#)



Efrén Divided

By [Cisneros, Ernesto](#)

2020-03 - Quill Tree Books

9780062881687 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"We need books to break open our hearts, so that we might feel more deeply, so that we might be more human in these unkind times. This is a book doing work of the spirit in a time of darkness." --Sandra Cisneros, author of *The House on Mango Street*

Efrén Nava's Am is his Superwoman--or Soperwoman, named after the delicious Mexican sopes his mother often [...More](#)



Ghost Squad

By [Ortega, Claribel](#)

Author [Ortega, Claribel A.](#)

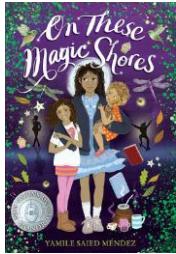
2020-04 - Scholastic Press

9781338280128 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Coco meets *Stranger Things* with a hint of *Ghostbusters* in this action-packed supernatural fantasy.

For Lucely Luna, ghosts are more than just the family business.

Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and her best friend, Syd, cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine. Together, they [...More](#)



On These Magic Shores

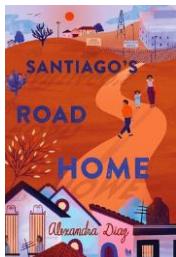
By [Mendez, Yamile Saied](#)

2020-06 - Tu Books

9781643790312 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Minerva must take care of her sisters after her mother's disappearance in this magical #ownvoices middle grade story that pairs perfectly with *Peter Pan*.

Minerva Soledad Miranda is determined to reach her goals, despite shouldering more responsibility than the other kids at school--like caring for her two sisters while her mom works two jobs. But one night, Minerva's mom doesn't [...More](#)



Santiago's Road Home

By [Diaz, Alexandra](#)

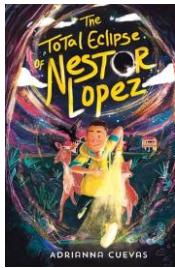
2020-05 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

9781534446236 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"With every chapter, readers will be further immersed in Santiago's story as they root for his triumph over injustice." --Booklist (starred review)

"With unflinching conviction, Diaz sketches a frank, brief account of refugee youth in an uncaring bureaucratic system." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"Harrowing but deeply illuminating." [...More](#)



The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

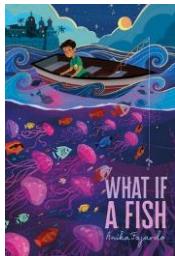
By [Cuevas, Adrianna](#)

2020-07 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374313609 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this magical middle-grade debut novel from Adrianna Cuevas, *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*, a Cuban American boy must use his secret ability to communicate with animals to save the inhabitants of his town when they are threatened by a tule vieja, a witch that transforms into animals.

All Nestor Lopez wants is to live in one place for more than a few months and have [...More](#)



What If a Fish

By [Fajardo, Anika](#)

2020-08 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781534449831 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A whimsical and unflinchingly honest generational story of family and identity where hats turn into leeches, ghosts blow kisses from lemon trees, and the things you find at the end of your fishing line might not be a fish at all.

Half-Colombian Eddie Aguado has never really *felt* Colombian. Especially after Papa died. And since Mama keeps her memories of Papa locked up where Eddie [...More](#)



Immigrant Architect: Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream

By [de Miguel, Berta](#)

Author [Diebolt, Kent](#)

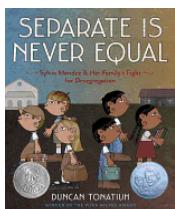
Illustrator [Lorente, Virginia](#)

2020-04 - Tilbury House Publishers

9780884488125 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Booklist Starred Review

The Spanish architects Rafael Guastavino Sr. and his son, Rafael Guastavino Jr., designed more than one thousand iconic spaces across New York City and the United States, such as the New York City Hall Subway Station (still a tourist destination though no longer active), the Manhattan Federal Reserve Bank, the Nebraska State Capitol, the Great Hall of Ellis [...More](#)



Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation

By [Tonatiuh, Duncan](#)

2014-05 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419710544 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Alabama Camellia Award (2016), Americas Award for Children & Young

Adult Literature (2015), Beehive Awards (2016), Bluebonnet Awards (2016), Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens (2015), Cybils (2014), Georgia Children's Book Award (2016), Jane Addams Children's Book Award (2015), Orbis Pictus Award (2015), Pura Belpre Award (2015), Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award (2015)

A decade before the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling "Brown v. Board of Education, " Sylvia Mendez, an eight-year-old girl of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage, played an instrumental role in a landmark desegregation case in 1946 in California. Winner of the Pura Belpre Award. Full color. [...More](#)



Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano Julio C. Tello / Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello

By [Brown, Monica](#)

Illustrator [Chavarri, Elisa](#)

2020-08 - Children's Book Press (CA)

9780892394234 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

A fascinating bilingual picture book biography of Peruvian archaeologist and national icon Julio C. Tello, who unearthed Peru's ancient cultures and fostered pride in the country's Indigenous history.

Growing up in the late 1800s, Julio Tello, an Indigenous boy, spent time exploring the caves and burial grounds in the foothills of the Peruvian Andes. Nothing scared Julio, not [...More](#)