



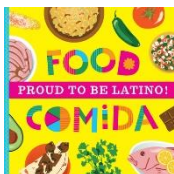
Inclusive Literature Lists

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.

September 2021: National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15)



Proud to Be Latino: Food/Comida

By [Mireles, Ashley Marie](#)

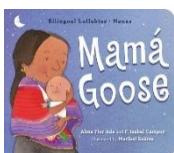
Illustrator [Valle, Edith](#)

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](#)

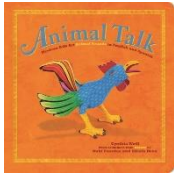
Author [Campoy, F. Isabel](#)

Illustrator [Suarez, Maribel](#)

2019-11 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9781368045414 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

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](#)



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

By [Weill, Cynthia](#)

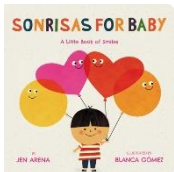
2017-04 - Cinco Puntos Press

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](#)



Sonrisas for Baby: A Little Book of Smiles

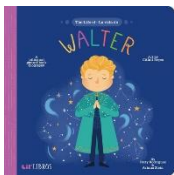
By [Arena, Jen](#)

Illustrator [Gomez, Blanca](#)

2020-12 - LB Kids

9780316537957 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This sweet English/Spanish bilingual board book proves that smiles can brighten any day. Everyone has smiles for baby -- from *un amigo* to *la familia* to *la rana* and *un pez*, in this charming board book that gently infuses easy Spanish vocabulary into the text. The spare and simple Spanish is accessible for both bilingual parents and those who wish to introduce [...More](#)



Life of - La Vida de Walter, the

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

2020-09 - Lil' Libros

9781947971547 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

Introduce little ones to the life of a cherished icon, Walter Mercado, in both English and Spanish!

Walter was a Puerto Rican astrologer, actor, dancer, and writer, best known as a television personality for his shows on daily astrology.

Patty Rodriguez is the co-founder of Lil' Libros, a publisher of bilingual children's books and co-author of more than 15 books [...More](#)



Papel Picado: Las Formas/Shapes

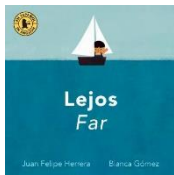
By [Flores, Yreina](#)

Author [Heffner, Amber](#)

2021-09 - Blue Manatee Press

9781936669882 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

Bilingual text in Spanish and English prompts young readers to identify shapes such as circles, triangles, squares, diamonds, and more. The artwork is bright and fun using the cut paper Mexican folk-art known as papel picado--a true celebration of life's special moments. [...More](#)



Lejos / Far

By [Herrera, Juan Felipe](#)

Illustrator [Gómez, Blanca](#)

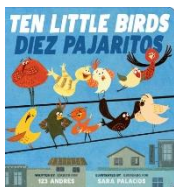
2019-09 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763690632 [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, *Cerca/Close*, engage young children.

El árbol de limones está lejos de mi casa. *The lemon tree is far from my house.*

The little boy's house is far from the city, and the city is far from the ocean. What about the [...More](#)



Ten Little Birds / Diez Pajaritos

By [Salquero, Andrés](#)

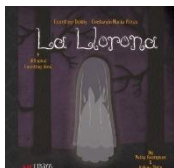
Illustrator [Palacios, Sara](#)

2021-04 - Scholastic en Español

9781338343694 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Count to 10 and back again with Latin Grammy Award-winning children's musical duo 123 Andrés in this bilingual board book!

The popular song from 123 Andrés' Latin Grammy Award-winning album is cleverly and beautifully brought to life in this bright, bouncy board book! Each of the 10 birds is given a fun and silly personality, and children will love to follow along as each flies away [...More](#)



La Llorona: Counting Down / Contando Hacia Atras: A Bilingual Counting Book

By [Rodríguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

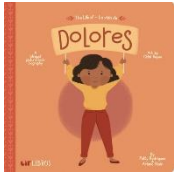
2015-09 - Lil' Libros

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](#)



The Life of / La Vida de Dolores

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

2021-05 - Lil' Libros

9781947971585 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Introduce little ones to the life of legendary civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, in both English and Spanish!

?Si, Se Puede! Yes, it can be done!? is the famous rallying cry of Dolores Huerta, a leading voice in the rights of migrant farmworkers. Originally a teacher, and later a community leader, she believed in her cause so much that she co-founded the labor union United Farm [...More](#)



Run, Little Chaski!: An Inka Trail Adventure

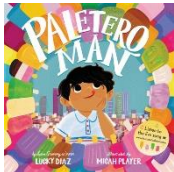
By [Llanos, Mariana](#)

Illustrator [Johnson, Mariana Ruiz](#)

2021-06 - Barefoot Books

9781646861651 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Paletero Man

By [Diaz, Lucky](#)

Illustrator [Player, Micah](#)

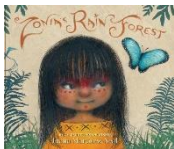
2021-06 - HarperCollins

9780063014442 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A vibrant picture book celebrating the strength of community and the tastes of summer from Latin Grammy-winning musician Lucky Diaz and celebrated artist Micah Player.

Ring! Ring! Ring! Can you hear his call? Paletas for one! Paletas for all!

What's the best way to cool off on a hot summer day? Run quick and find Paletero [...More](#)



Zonia's Rain Forest

By [Martinez-Neal, Juana](#)

Illustrator [Martinez-Neal, Juana](#)

2021-03 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536208450 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A heartfelt, visually stunning picture book from Caldecott Honor and Robert F. Sibert Medal winner Juana Martinez-Neal illuminates a young girl's day of play and adventure in the lush rain forest of Peru.

Zonia's home is the Amazon rain forest, where it is always green and full of life. Every morning, the rain forest calls to Zonia, and every morning, she answers. She visits the sloth [...More](#)



El Cucuy Is Scared, Too!

By [Barba Higuera, Donna](#)

Illustrator [Perdomo, Juliana](#)

2021-07 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419744457 [Check Our Catalog](#)

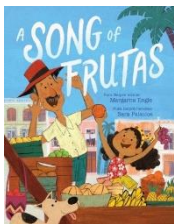
A boy and his monster confront their mutual fears in this unlikely friendship story that's rooted in Mexican folklore

Ramón is a little boy who can't sleep. He is nervous for his first day at a new school.

And El Cucuy is the monster who lives in Ramón's cactus pot. He can't sleep, either.

It turns out that El Cucuy is scared, too

This gentle, [...More](#)



A Song of Frutas

By [Engle, Margarita](#)

Illustrator [Palacios, Sara](#)

2021-08 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

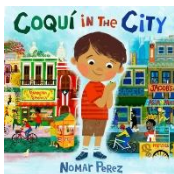
9781534444898 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From Pura Belpr Award-winning author Margarita Engle comes a lively, rhythmic picture book about a little girl visiting her grandfather who is a *pregonero*--a singing street vendor in Cuba--and helping him sell his *frutas*.

When we visit mi abuelo, I help him sell

frutas, singing the names of each fruit

as we walk, our footsteps like [...More](#)



Coquí in the City

By [Perez, Nomar](#)

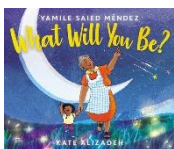
Illustrator [Perez, Nomar](#)

2021-03 - Dial Books

9780593109038 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A heartfelt picture book based on the author-illustrator's own experiences, about a boy who moves to the U.S. mainland from Puerto Rico and realizes that New York City might have more in common with San Juan than he initially thought.

Miguel's pet frog, Coqu , is always with him: as he greets his neighbors in San Juan, buys quesitos from the panadería, and listens to his abuelo's story [...More](#)



What Will You Be?

By [Méndez, Yamilé Saied](#)

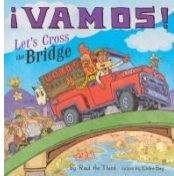
Illustrator [Alizadeh, Kate](#)

2021-05 - HarperCollins

9780062839954 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From Yamile Saied M~~o~~ndez, acclaimed author of *Where Are You From?*, comes a stunning lyrical picture book that tells the story of one girl who is always asked a simple question: What will you be when you grow up?

"M~~o~~ndez and Alizadeh create a balance between the abstract and concrete by letting the child imagine the future but with Abuela's guidance and [...More](#)



¡vamos! Let's Cross the Bridge

By [Raúl the Third](#)

2021-10 - Versify

9780358380405 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Little Lobo and Bernab are back in this joyful story about coming together and celebrating community, a lively follow-up to *Vamos Let's Go Eat*, by Pura Belpr Medal-winning illustrator Raúl the Third.

People are always crossing the bridge for work, to visit family, or for play. Some going this way; others going that way. Back and forth they go. With friends on foot and in bicycles, [...More](#)



If Dominican Were a Color

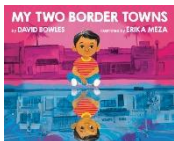
By [Recio, Sili](#)

Illustrator [McCarthy, Brianna](#)

2020-09 - Denene Millner Books/Simon & Schuster Books f

9781534461796 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



My Two Border Towns

By [Bowles, David](#)

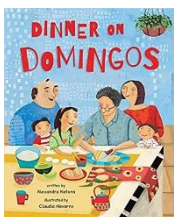
Illustrator [Meza, Erika](#)

2021-09 - Kokila

9780593111048 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A picture book debut by an award-winning author about a boy's life on the U.S.-Mexico border, visiting his favorite places on The Other Side with his father, spending time with family and friends, and sharing in the responsibility of community care.

Early one Saturday morning, a boy prepares for a trip to The Other Side/El Otro Lado. It's close--just down the street from his school--and [...More](#)



Dinner on Domingos

By [Katona, Alexandra](#)

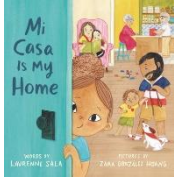
Illustrator [Navarro, Claudia](#)

2021-10 - Barefoot Books

9781646862931 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This magical home turns a normal Sunday into domingo: the best day of the week." Warm memories wash over a first-generation Latinx American girl as she experiences a typical Sunday night dinner at her Abuelita's house. As Alejandra thinks about all the

good times her family has had there, she decides that she wants to be brave and try speaking Spanish with Abuelita so that they can deepen their [...More](#)



Mi Casa Is My Home

By [Sala, Laurenne](#)

Illustrator [Hoang, Zara González](#)

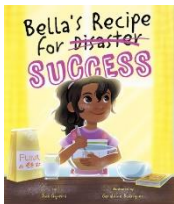
2021-08 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536209433 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lucia invites you to visit her bustling casa and meet an intergenerational array of loved ones in a charming Spanglish celebration of family life.

Este es el ba o . . . It's where I shave my barba con Abuelo.

Bienvenidos to Luc a's home. Luc a lives in her casa with her big, loud, beautiful familia, and she's going to show you around From la [...More](#)



Bella's Recipe for Success

By [Siqueira, Ana](#)

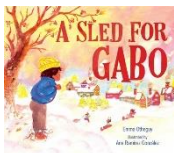
Illustrator [Rodríguez, Geraldine](#)

2021-07 - Beaming Books

9781506468105 [Check Our Catalog](#)

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Bella wants to find out what she's good at. But she quits everything she (barely) tries because she's a disaster at it. Her somersaults are like clumsy jirafas rolling downhill, her piano playing like elephant feet. When she decides to learn how to bake with her wise old abuela, her first attempt at dulce de leche frosting looks like scaly [...More](#)



A Sled for Gabo

By [Otheguy, Emma](#)

Illustrator [González, Ana Ramírez](#)

2021-01 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534445345 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Snowy Day meets Last Stop on Market Street in this heartwarming classic in the making about a young boy who is in a new town and doesn't have much, but with the help of a loving community discovers the joys of his first snowy day.

On the day it snows, Gabo sees kids tugging sleds up the hill, then coasting down, whooping all the while. Gabo wishes he could join them, [...More](#)



The Caiman

By [Manrique, María Eugenia](#)

Illustrator [París, Ramón](#)

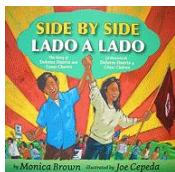
Translator [Brill, Amy](#)

2021-07 - Amazon Crossing Kids

9781542031585 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The unforgettable story of a man and his alligator.

When Faoro the clockmaker adopts a baby alligator, he has no idea that someday their story will travel far and wide. But the town of San Fernando de Apure would never forget this kind young man and his adoring alligator, who played with the neighborhood children, took part in Faoro's wedding, and, eventually, mourned his loss. Now [...More](#)



Side by Side/Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez/La Historia de Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez

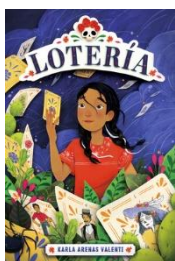
By [Brown, Monica](#)

Illustrator [Cepeda, Joe](#)

2010-09 - HarperCollins Espanol

9780061227813 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Award-winning author Brown teams up with acclaimed illustrator Cepeda to create this powerful bilingual picture-book biography that pays tribute to Mexican-American culture by beautifully narrating the collaboration between Huerta and Chavez. Full color. [...More](#)



Lotería

By [Valenti, Karla](#)

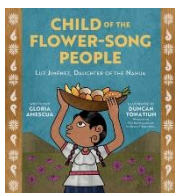
Illustrator [Sanmar, Dana](#)

2021-09 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780593176962 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The turn of a card could change your destiny in this captivating middle grade adventure based on the Lotería card game and perfect for fans of Coco. While searching for her missing cousin, a young girl is transported to a mythical kingdom, becoming entangled in a perilous game of chance.

"A magical, philosophical tale rooted in Mexican lore." --*School Library Journal*, [...More](#)



Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahuatl

By [Amescua, Gloria](#)

2021-08 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419740206 [Check Our Catalog](#)

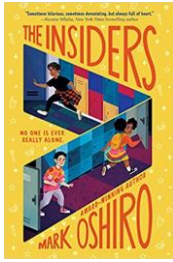
Award-winning illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh brings to life debut author Gloria Amescua's lyrical biography of an indigenous Nahuatl woman from Mexico who taught and preserved her people's culture through modeling for famous artists

She was Luz Jim nez,

child of the flower-song people,

the powerful Aztec,

who called themselves [...More](#)



The Insiders

By [Oshiro, Mark](#)

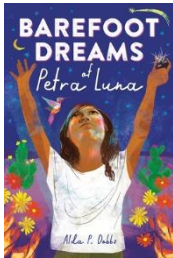
2021-09 - HarperCollins

9780063008106 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Three kids who don't belong. A room that shouldn't exist. A year that will change everything.

Perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead and Meg Medina, this debut middle grade novel from award-winning author Mark Oshiro is a hopeful and heartfelt coming-of-age story for anyone who's ever felt like they didn't fit in.

San Francisco and Orangevale may be in [...More](#)



Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna

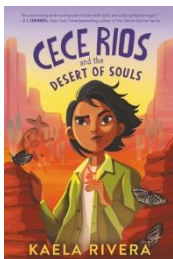
By [Dobbs, Alda](#)

2021-09 - Sourcebooks Young Readers

9781728234656 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Based on a true story, the tale of one girl's perilous journey to cross the U.S. border and lead her family to safety during the Mexican Revolution

It is 1913, and twelve-year-old Petra Luna's mama has died while the Revolution rages in Mexico. Before her papa is dragged away by soldiers, Petra vows to him that she will care for the family she has left--her abuelita, [...More](#)



Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls

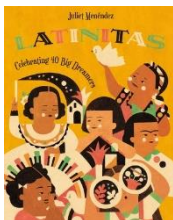
By [Rivera, Kaela](#)

2021-04 - HarperCollins

9780062947550 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When a powerful desert spirit kidnaps her sister, Cece Rios must learn forbidden magic to get her back, in this own voices middle grade fantasy perfect for fans of *The Storm Runner* and *Aru Shah and the End of Time*.

Living in the remote town of Tierra del Sol is dangerous, especially in the criatura months, when powerful spirits roam the desert [...More](#)



Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers

By [Menéndez, Juliet](#)

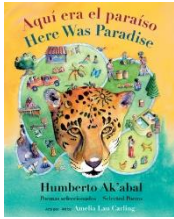
Illustrator [Menéndez, Juliet](#)

2021-02 - Henry Holt & Company

9781250234629 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Dream big with the Latinitas in *Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers*.

Discover how 40 influential Latinas became the women we celebrate today In this collection of short biographies from all over Latin America and across the United States, Juliet Menéndez explores the first small steps that set the Latinitas off on their journeys. With gorgeous, [...More](#)



Aquí Era El Paraíso / Here Was Paradise: Selección de Poemas de Humberto Ak'abal / Selected Poems of Humberto Ak'abal

By [Ak'abal, Humberto](#)

Editor [Aldana, Patricia](#)

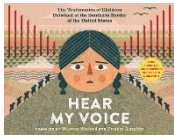
Illustrator [Carling, Amelia Lau](#)

2021-08 - Groundwood Books

9781773064956 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A collection of poetry by one of the greatest Indigenous poets of the Americas about the vanished world of his childhood -- that of the Maya K'iche'.

Aquí era el paraíso / Here Was Paradise is a selection of poems written by the great Maya poet Humberto Ak'abal. They evoke his childhood in and around the Maya K'iche' village of Momostenango, Guatemala, and also [...More](#)



Hear My Voice: Stories of Children Detained at the Mexican/American Border Told in Their Own Words

By [Binford, Warren](#)

Foreword by [Bochenek, Michael Garcia](#)

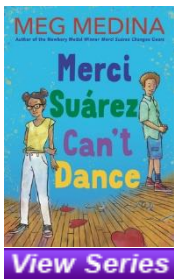
2021-04 - Workman Publishing

9781523513482 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

The moving stories of children in migration--in their own words.

"In Spanish and in English, a devastating first-person account of children's experiences in detention at the southern U.S. border.... A powerful, critical document only made more heartbreaking in picture-book form." --*Kirkus Reviews* starred review

Every day, children in migration are detained at the [...More](#)



Merci Suárez Can't Dance

By [Medina, Meg](#)

2021-04 - Candlewick Press (MA)

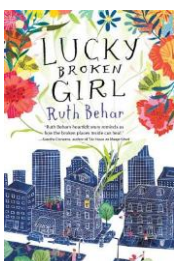
9780763690502 [Check Our Catalog](#)

2nd book in Merci Suarez series

A *Kirkus Reviews* Most Anticipated Book of 2021

In Meg Medina's follow-up to her Newbery Medal-winning novel, *Merci* takes on seventh grade, with all its travails of friendship, family, love--and finding your rhythm.

Seventh grade is going to be a real trial for *Merci* Suárez. For science she's got no-nonsense Mr. Ellis, who expects her to be as smart as her [...More](#)



Lucky Broken Girl

By [Behar, Ruth](#)

2017-04 - Nancy Paulsen Books

9780399546440 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Pura Belpré Award (2018)

Winner of the 2018 Pura Belpré Award

"A book for anyone mending from childhood wounds." --Sandra Cisneros, author of *The House on Mango Street*

In this unforgettable multicultural coming-of-age narrative--based on the author's childhood in the 1960s--a young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed. [...More](#)



Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe

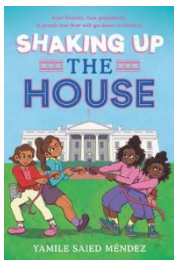
By [Hernandez, Carlos](#)
2020-05 - Rick Riordan Presents
9781368022835 [Check Our Catalog](#)

2nd book in Sal and Gabi series

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents Carlos Hernandez's sequel to the critically acclaimed *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe*, a brilliant sci-fi romp with Cuban influence.

Among many other challenges, Sal and Gabi have to try to make everything right with our world when there is a rogue Gabi from another universe running loose.

Sal Vidon doesn't want to live [...More](#)



Shaking Up the House

By [Méndez, Yamile Saied](#)
2021-01 - HarperCollins
9780062970725 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A friendly prank war at the White House spirals out of control in this hilarious and heartfelt middle grade novel written by acclaimed author Yamile Saied Méndez and perfect for fans of *President of the Whole Fifth Grade* and *Merci Su rez Changes Gears*.

Ingrid and Winnie Lopez have lived at 1600 [...More](#)

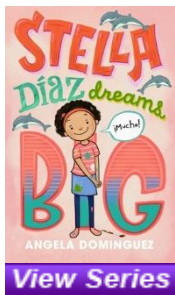


The Way to Rio Luna

By [Cordova, Zoraida](#)
2020-06 - Scholastic Inc.
9781338239546 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For fans of *The Land of Stories* comes an adventure that reveals the secret warnings hidden inside all classic tales -- beware fairyland at all costs.

Eleven-year-old Danny Monteverde believes in magic. He knows that pixie dust is real, that wardrobes act as portals, and that rabbit holes lead to Wonderland. Most of all, he believes that his older sister, Pili, is waiting for him [...More](#)



Stella Diaz Dreams Big

By [Dominguez, Angela](#)

Illustrator [Dominguez, Angela](#)

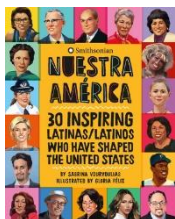
2021-01 - Roaring Brook Press

9781250763082 [Check Our Catalog](#)

3rd book in Stella Diaz series

In *Stella Diaz Dreams Big*, by award-winning author and illustrator Angela Dominguez, how will Stella fare when the waters get rough?

Stella is happy as a clam in fourth grade. She's the president of the Sea Musketeers conservation club, she starts taking swim lessons, and she joins a new art club at school. But as her schedule fills up, school gets harder, too. Suddenly the tides [...More](#)



Nuestra América: 30 Inspiring Latinas/Latinos Who Have Shaped the United States

By [Yourvoulis, Sabrina](#)

Illustrator [Félix, Gloria](#)

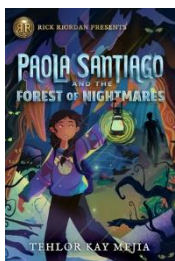
2020-09 - Running Press Kids

9780762497478 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrate 30 influential Latinas/Latinos/Latinxs in U.S. history with *Nuestra América*, a fully-illustrated anthology from the Smithsonian Latino Center.

Nuestra América highlights the inspiring stories of thirty Latina/o/xs throughout history and their incredible contributions to the cultural, social, and political character of the United States.

[...More](#)



Paola Santiago and the Forest of Nightmares

By [Mejia, Tehlor Kay](#)

2021-08 - Rick Riordan Presents

9781368049344 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents the sequel to Tehlor Kay Mejia's critically acclaimed own-voices novel about science-obsessed Paola Santiago.

Paola is a brilliant, furious girl who often trusts her brain but trips over her heart.--Sarah Gailey, Hugo and Locus award-winning author of *River of Teeth*

Six months after Paola Santiago [...More](#)