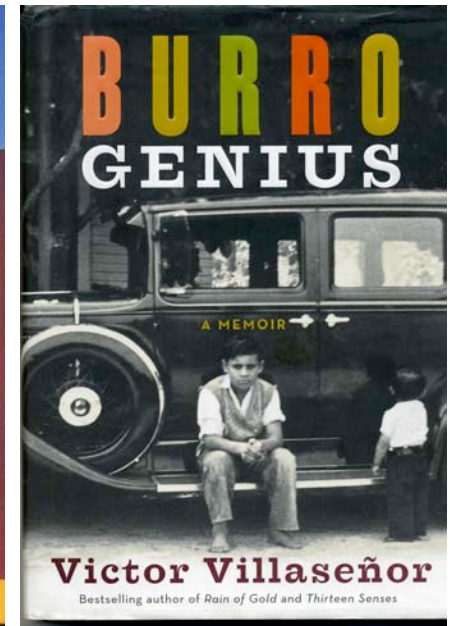
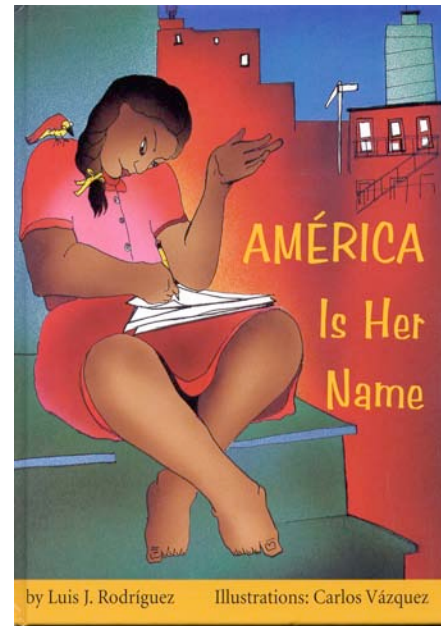
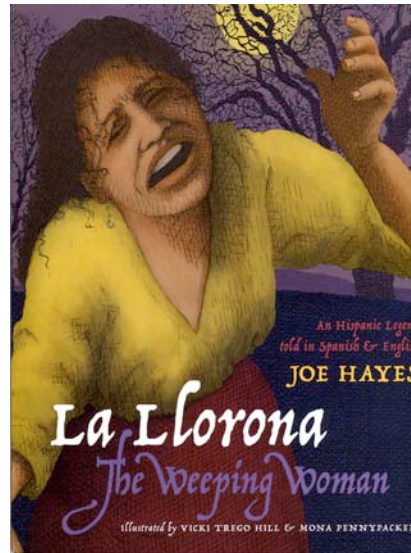
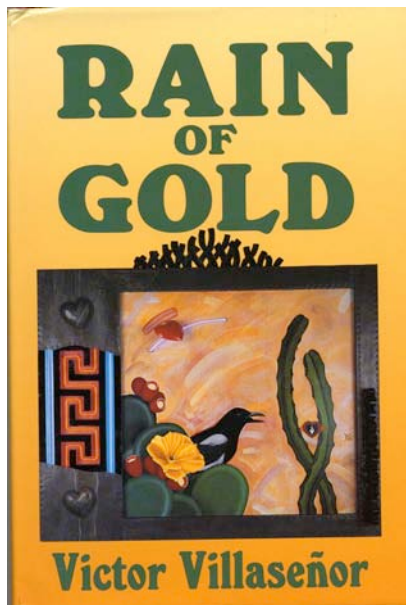


Culturally Relevant Literature for Classroom Use

An Instructional Support tool for Standard English Learners (SELs)

Recommended Mexican American Literature Titles by Grade Level



What is Culturally Relevant Literature?

The use of culturally relevant literature is very important to the academic success of students. It is literature that draws on the cultural capital of students and engages the learner.

Culturally Relevant Literature is literature that...

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

Reference: V. Harris (1993)

How to Use Culturally Relevant Books in the Classroom

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

MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE FOR CLASSROOM USE
Grades Kindergarten through High School

Grade	Title	Author	Notations
Kinder & 1st.	Medio Pollito/Half-Chicken	Ada, Alma Flor	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	Barrio:José's Neighborhood	Ancona, George	Some Spanish/English dominant text
Kinder & 1st.	This House is Made of Mud	Buchanan, Ken	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	Gathering the Sun	Flor Ada, Alma	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	Magic Windows	Lomas Garza, Carmen	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	A Gift for Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead	Luenn, Nancy	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	Way Out in the Desert	Marsh T.J. & J. Ward	English w/Native glossary Sing-along
Kinder & 1st.	De Colores	Orozco, José-Luis	Bilingual Spanish/English Song Book
Kinder & 1st.	La Nochebuena South of the Border	Rice, James	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	The Gullywasher	Rossi, Joyce	Bilingual Spanish/English Song Book
Kinder & 1st.	Carlos and the Squash Plant	Romero Steven, Jan	Bilingual Spanish/English
Kinder & 1st.	To Many Tamales	Soto, Gary	English Text
Kinder & 1st.	Diego	Winter, Jeanette	Bilingual Spanish/English
2nd. & 3rd.	The legend of the Hummingbird	Ramirez, Michael Rose	English Text
2nd. & 3rd.	Magda's Tortillas	Chavarria-Chairez, Becky	Bilingual Spanish/English
2nd. & 3rd.	Among the Volcanoes	Castañeda, Omar S.	English Text
2nd. & 3rd.	The Legend of Mexicatl	Harper, Jo	English Text
2nd. & 3rd.	A Spoon for Every Bite	Hayes, Joe	English Text
2nd. & 3rd.	The Spirit of Tío Fernandez	Levy, Janice	Bilingual Spanish/English
2nd. & 3rd.	The Three Little Javelinas	Lowell, Susan	Bilingual Spanish/English text
2nd. & 3rd.	Gracias Rosa	Markel, Michelle	Some Spanish/English dominant

MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE FOR CLASSROOM USE CONTINUE...

Grade	Title	Author	Notations
4th. & 5th.	The Fiesta of the Day of the Dead	Ancona, George	English Text
4th. & 5th.	The lady of Guadalupe	Tomie de Paola	English Text
4th. & 5th.	Jade and Iorn	Garay, Luis	English Text
4th. & 5th.	Prietita and the Ghost Woman	Anzaldua, Gloria	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th & 5th.	La Lorna: The Weeping Woman	Hayes, Joe	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th. & 5th.	My Daughter my Son	Castillo. Ana	English Text (Toltec Codice)
4th. & 5th.	Upside Down Boy	Herrera, Juan Felipe	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th. & 5th.	Uncle Snake	Gollub, Mathew	English Text
4th. & 5th.	How We Came to the Fifth World	Rohmer, Harriet	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th. & 5th.	Fiesta Feminina	Gerson: Mary Jane	Some Spanish/English dominant
4th. & 5th.	The Tree is Older Than You Are	Shihab Nye, Naomi	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th. & 5th.	Latino Read Aloud Stories	Suarez-Rivas, Maite	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th. & 5th.	From the Other Side	Anzaldua, Gloria	Bilingual Spanish/English
4th. & 5th.	Abuelita's Heart	Cordova, Amy	Some Spanish/English dominant
4th. & 5th.	Aztecs: History Detectives	Ardagh, Philip	English Text
4th. & 5th.	Lost Temples of the Aztecs	Tanaka, Shelly	English Text
4th. & 5th.	Frida Kahlo	Venezia, Mike	English Text
MS/HS	Drink Cultura: Chicanismo	Burciaga, José Antonio	English Text
MS/HS	Cool Salsa	Carlson, Lori M.	Bilingual Spanish/English
MS/HS	The House on Mango Street	Cisneros, Sandra	English Text
MS/HS	Nerdlandia	Gary Soto	English Text
MS/HS	The Candy Vendor's Boy & Other Stories	Garza, Beatriz de la	English Text
MS/HS	Mexican American Heritage	Jiménez, Carlos M.	English Text
MS/HS	The Story of Colors	Marcos, Subcomandante	Bilingual Spanish/English

MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE FOR CLASSROOM USE CONTINUE...

Grade	Title	Author	Notations
MS/HS	First Confession	Montserrat, Fontes	English Text
MS/HS	The Smoking Mirror	Quiñonez, Naomi Helena	English Text
MS/HS	A Fabricated Mexican	Rivera, Rick	English Text
MS/HS	The Harvest	Rivera, Tomás	English Text
MS/HS	The Monkey Box	Rodriguez, Art	English Text
MS/HS	Eastside Dreams	Rodriguez, Art	English Text
MS/HS	How to be a Chicana Role Model	Serros, Michele	English Text
MS/HS	Chicana Falsa	Serros, Michele	English Text
MS/HS	Burried Onions	Soto, Gary	English Text
MS/HS	Junior College	Soto, Gary	English Text
MS/HS	Tortilla Flats	Soto, Gary	English Text
MS/HS	The Sink Hole	Treviño, Jesus Salvador	English Text
MS/HS	Zoot Suit and Other Plays	Valdez, Luis	English Text
MS/HS	Pocho	Villareal, José Antonio	English Text
MS/HS	Rain of Gold	Villaseñor, Victor	English Text
MS/HS	Walking Stars	Villaseñor, Victor	English Text
MS/HS	It's all In the Frijoles	Nava, Yolanda	English Text
MS/HS	Song of the Hummming Bird	Limon, Graciela	English Text
MS/HS	Motorcycle Ride on the Sea of Tranquility	Santana, Patricia	English Text
MS/HS	Highwire Moon	Straight, Susan	English Text
MS/HS	Woman Hollering Creek	Cisneros, Sandra	English Text
MS/HS	Spilling the Beans	Burciaga, Jose Antonio	English Text