Authentic Spanish Books for Pre-K to Grade 5
Libros auténticos en español de Pre-K a 5to Grado

Here at Lee & Low Books, we pride ourselves on publishing culturally and linguistically authentic books that all children can enjoy. We are proud to showcase stories that celebrate cultures, voices, and experiences of communities historically underrepresented or misrepresented in children’s literature. High-quality bilingual and Spanish books help build a solid foundation to achieve Spanish literacy or bilingualism while also affirming and validating a child’s identity, culture, and home language.

From North to South/ Del Norte al Sur written by René Colato Laínez, illustrated by Joe Cepeda

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The following suggested read-alouds are some of our most popular bilingual and dual language texts written by authors from the cultures featured in the books.

**Antonio’s Card/La tarjeta de Antonio** - written by Rigoberto González, illustrated by Cecilia Álvarez
- In this gentle LGBTQ story, Antonio - a young boy who considers how to celebrate his mother and her partner on Mother’s Day.

**Featherless/Desplumado** - written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Ernesto Cuevas
- A young boy in a wheelchair learns to soar after his father gives him a special pet bird in this sparkling story of self-empowerment and friendship by former US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

**Finding the Music/En pos de la música** - written by Jennifer Torres, illustrated by Renato Alarcón
- A determined Latina girl accidentally breaks her grandfather’s vihuela and ventures into her community to find someone who can fix the instrument, leading her to discover her grandfather’s legacy as a mariachi player.

**From North to South/Del norte al sur** - written by René Colato Lainez, illustrated by Joe Cepeda
- Author René Colato Lainez tackles the difficult subject of family separation with exquisite tenderness when José’s Mamá has to return to Mexico for not having proper papers and his family faces an uncertain future.

**Finding the Flea/En pos de la mesa** - written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Enrique O. Sánchez
- In this joyful and spirited collection, poems in many formats celebrate the vivid landscape of the American Southwest and the delightful rapport that children share with the natural world, in both English and Spanish versions.

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**Drum, Chavi, Drum/Toca, Chavi, Toca!** - written by Mayra L. Dole, illustrated by Tonel
- Even though nobody in her Cuban-American neighborhood thinks girls should play the drums, Chavi knows she was born to drum.

**Confetti: Poems for Children/Confeti: Poemas para niños** - written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Enrique O. Sánchez
- In this joyful and spirited collection, poems in many formats celebrate the vivid landscape of the American Southwest and the delightful rapport that children share with the natural world, in both English and Spanish versions.

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**Gracias + Thanks** - written by Pat Mora, illustrated by John Parra
- In a series of poetic sentences, a young boy talks about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful in this Pura Belpre Award Honor-winning book.

**Quintito’s Neighborhood/El vecindario de Quinito** - written by José Ramirez
- Join Quintito in exploring his neighborhood as he finds out that it is made up of much more than buildings, streets, and shops. It is made up of the people he knows and loves.

**Featherless/Desplumado** - written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Ernesto Cuevas
- A young boy in a wheelchair learns to soar after his father gives him a special pet bird in this sparkling story of self-empowerment and friendship by former US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

**Magic Dogs of the Volcanoes/Los perros mágicos de los volcanes** - written by Manlio Argueta, illustrated by Elly Simmons
- Whenever Salvadoran people gather to tell stories, someone will have a story about the magic dogs called cadejos. Here is Manlio Argueta’s original story about these famous folkloric animals.

**Xochitl and the Flowers/Xochitl, la niña de las flores** - written by Jorge Argueta, illustrated by Carl Angel
- Thousands of miles away from El Salvador, Xochitl and her family make a new home in the United States. When they start a flower business, Xochitl learns the value of her new community.

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**Call Me Tree/Llámame Árbol** - written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez
- An imaginative tale of self-discovery by a child who grows, learns about the natural world, embraces others, and is free to become who he or she is meant to be—a child as unique as a tree.

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**Zombies Don’t Eat Veggies & ¡Los Zombis no comen verduras!** - written and illustrated by Megan & Jorge Lacera
- In this delightful debut by a talented husband-and-wife team, Mo Romero is a zombie with a deep, dark secret...
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Calling the Doves/El canto de las palomas • written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Elly Simmons • Here is former US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera’s story of his migrant farmworker childhood, featuring his mother’s songs and poetry, and his father’s stories and relationship with nature, all revealed in vibrant language.

Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia • written and illustrated by Carmen Lomas Garza • The story of Carmen Lomas Garza’s girlhood in Kingsville, Texas, told through fifteen paintings and stories, each focusing on a different aspect of Carmen’s traditional Mexican American culture as she grew up.

Mama and Papa Have a Store & La tienda de mamá y papá • written and illustrated by Amelia Lau Carling • A young girl describes what a typical day is like in her parents’ Chinese store in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia • written and illustrated by Carmen Lomas Garza • The story of Carmen Lomas Garza’s girlhood in Kingsville, Texas, told through fifteen paintings and stories, each focusing on a different aspect of Carmen’s traditional Mexican American culture as she grew up.

Martí’s Song for Freedom/Marti y sus versos por la libertad • written by Emma Otheguy, illustrated by Beatriz Vidal • José Martí dedicated his life to the promotion of liberty: the abolishment of slavery, political independence for Cuba, and intellectual independence from colonialism for all Latinos. This bilingual biography is written in verse with excerpts from Martí’s seminal work, Versos sencillos.

My Diary from Here to There/ Mi diario de aquí hasta allá • written by Amada Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • Amada records her fears, hopes and dreams about moving from Mexico to the other side of the border in California in her trusted diary.

My Papa Diego and Me/ Mi papa Diego y yo • written by Guadalupe Marin, illustrated by Diego Rivera • Guadalupe Rivera Marin shares some of her childhood memories of her father, world-renowned artist Diego Rivera, in this intimate artistic portrait.

My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuarto • written by Amada Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • In this delightful memoir of a California childhood, a girl tries to carve out space for herself among five brothers, two parents, and a house full of visiting relatives.

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Friends from the Other Side/Amigos del otro lado • written by Consuelo Mendez • This poignant immigration story captures not only the hardship of daily life on the border, but also the beauty of the landscape and the dignity and generosity of spirit that Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants share.

Poems to Dream Together/Poemas para soñar juntos • written by Francisco X. Alarcon, illustrated by Paula Barragan Party based on Alarcon’s own memories of growing up in Mexico and California, these joyous, universal poems will inspire all readers to dream their own dreams for a better, compassionate, and loving world.

Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la llorona • written by Gloria Anzaldúa, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • Readers are in for a magical journey in this reinterpretation of the famous Mexican legend of la Llorona, the ghost woman.

Sharuko: El arqueólogo peruano Julio C. Tello/Peruvian Archeologist Julio C. Tello • written by Monica Simmons, illustrated by Elisa Chavarrí • A fascinating bilingual picture book biography of Peruvian archeologist and national icon Julio C. Tello, who unearthed Peru’s ancient cultures and fostered pride in the country’s Indigenous history.

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The Storyteller’s Candle/La vela de los cuentos • written by Lucia González, illustrated by Lulu Delacre • Cousins Hildamar and Santiago long for their home in Puerto Rico—until they discover the library, thanks to Pura Belpre, New York City’s first Latina librarian. Winner of the Pura Belpre Award Honor.

The Upside Down Boy/El niño de cabeza • written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Elizabeth Gómez • The Upside Down Boy/El niño de cabeza is former US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera’s engaging memoir of the year his migrant family settled down so that he could go to school for the first time.

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Yum! Mmmmm! Qué Rico! America’s Sproutings & Yum! ¡MmmM! ¡Qué rico! Brotes de las Américas • written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Rafael Lopez • In this delightful collection of haiku, award-winning poet Pat Mora explores the many foods native to the Americas, including peanuts, blueberries, corn, potatoes, and more.

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Más Piñata: The first authentic Spanish leveled reader series!

Más Piñata, a leveled reader series from Bebop Books, offers rich, culturally relevant stories that support meaningful literacy development in guided reading and biliteracy settings. All titles were originally written in Spanish by native Spanish speakers and long-time educators.

For an even more extensive list of bilingual and dual language English and Spanish titles, please contact our Literacy Specialist, Katie Potter, at kpotter@leeandlow.com:

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¡Más Piñata, la primera serie de lecturas niveladas auténticas en español!

Más Piñata, una serie de lecturas niveladas de Bebop Books, ofrece historias ricas en contenido y culturalmente relevantes que apoyan el desarrollo significativo de la alfabetización tanto en lectura guiada como en ambientes bilingües. Todos los títulos de la serie fueron escritos originalmente en español por educadores hispanohablantes nativos.

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